MORE RIOTS PREDICTED

Courier-Pittsburg, Pa.
1-8-44

WASHINGTON — Unless better health, housing and recreation facilities are provided for Negroes in the Los Angeles area more riots are a virtual certainty, it was stated by a House Naval Affairs subcommittee here Friday.

With a study of 10 leading cities in the Los Angeles-Long Beach area, where most of the migrant Negro workers from the South are being crowded, recently completed, the sub-committee pointed out that there, in the tiny "Little Tokio" section, former dwelling place of the Japanese, the most acute health problems exist and blamed the War Production Board for holding up the construction of additional hospital facilities. A great need for recreational facilities for the colored dwellers was also expressed.

But instead of recommending construction of decent housing, the committee advocated "strict control of in-migration of Negro workers." 1-8-44

The survey discloses the observation that juvenile delinquency has doubled in the Los Angeles area since 1940, due to the widespread disorganization of the home.

CONVICT 2 MORE OF MUTINY AT SOUTHERN CAMP

Tribune—Chicago, Ill.
9-28-44

Alexandria, La., Sept. 27 (AP).—Brig. Gen. Louis F. Guerre, commanding officer of Camp Claiborne, announced today that two additional Negro soldiers had been convicted of mutiny charges in connection with a riot on Aug. 17 at the camp, in which a white officer and two Negro enlisted men were wounded. A third Negro, Pvt. William Smith Jr., 29, was acquitted.

Two court martial convictions were announced yesterday, one defendant receiving the death penalty and the other a life sentence. 9-29-44

Gen. Guerre said T/5 Phillip Davis, 19, Montgomery, Ala., was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday on a charge of mutinous conduct, and Sgt. Conway Price, 30, Brooklyn, N. Y., was sentenced to nine years at hard labor for failing to attempt to suppress mutiny. Davis was accused of holding two officers prisoner during the outbreak.

NEWSPAPERS AND RACE RIOTS

Argus—

All three of St. Louis' daily newspapers gave editorial comments condemning the outbursts of ugly racial feelings which took place in Butler County recently. Such comments will of course, have some effect for good upon the people of the state. But these newspapers have not done what the public may reasonably regard as their duty as leaders in thought and action of the great reading public. A much greater service to the populace of the state might be rendered by these same newspapers, should they campaign to break down the barriers which prevent better race relations in the state. St. Louis, Mo. 1-28-44

We have noticed with a deal of interest the attitude of these papers toward the Mayor's Commission on Race Relations. Little indeed, has been the support of a movement such as the commission on race relations coming from newspapers. If the people had the support of the St. Louis Metropolitan daily newspapers, they would have no cause for misgivings as the fine results of any movement which means better race relations which is so badly needed not only in St. Louis, but in the state.

Right now, there is before the State Constitutional Convention a resolution which, should it become a part of the basic law of the State, would give to all citizens civil rights without respect to race or creed. So far as we are able to reason, based upon our teachings of right and wrong, such a resolution is in keeping with the times in which we are living. It is time for the people to move out of the horse and buggy days. Because of what some call the southern sentiment in Missouri, these delegates who are afraid to grant to the Negroes equal right, or equal citizenship rights. They prefer this old state to remain in the quagmire of racial prejudice with the white people playing the role of bigotry on the ground that might makes right. Thus we see the great need of education, and we believe that the daily newspapers, such as we have in St. Louis, have a duty to perform by pointing out the danger which lurks in racial discrimination.

Since we all know that racial bigotry is at the bottom of such outbreaks as occurred in Butler County recently which left wounds in their neighbors soul that will require generations to heal; it behooves all of us to fight that thing which makes possible growing race intolerance.

Surely the dailies are sensitive to these facts.

So far as we have been able to learn, no one has offered any legitimate reason to oppose the resolution No. 124 offered by Messrs. Jacob L. Babler and Richard Fitzgibbon, delegates from St. Louis. The Negro has met every test required by law to establish his citizenship rights. His dollar is taxed on the same basis as any other citizen. If he violates the law he is subjected to the same penalty, (heaped up and shaken down), as any other citizen of the state. He is called upon to give his life's blood for the protection of his country just as others, which he has given in all the wars of this Republic. 1-28-44

Missouri can well afford to grant full citizenship to her colored citizens. It's an insult to her dignity for anyone to put her citizens in the class with citizens of the Southern States, who represent the nation's number one problem. The daily newspapers can render a great service to the people of this state by lending their aid to help stop the things which breed race riots and racial hatreds.

The above considered, we appeal to these powerful agencies to help make this old state a better place in which to live.

Two Soldier Riots In One Day In Fla.

Daily World—Atlanta, Ga.
10-8-44

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— (ANP) — Military and civilian police were summoned twice here last Sunday to answer riot calls in the Frenchtown section. Both summons were issued when soldiers from Camp Gordon Johnston became involved in affrays with local police and later when the soldiers had a fight with MP'S from Dale Mabry field. The first affair between the local police and the soldiers could have been avoided if the local police had allowed the colored MP's from Dale Mabry field to arrest a soldier in this section. The police took things into their own hands thereby creating excitement among the soldierse when they approached one of the men with drawn pistols. The soldiers then surrounded the police and would not allow them to take the soldiers. He was later removed by white MP's from Dale Mabry.

The second affair started about two hours later between six drunken soldiers. The fight among these soldiers was partially quelled by the Negro MP's. When the fighting subsided, it was found that one soldier had been knocked out by the MPs' who are armed only with billets. When the MP's picked up the injured soldier they were rushed by a number of Gordon Johnston soldiers. The MP's were outnumbered 20 to 1. They fought off the soldiers until reinforcements arrived bout 13 soldiers were arrested for their part in the fight. 10-8-44

Late Brig. Gen. Holcombs, commanding officer of Camp Gordon Johnston, announced that no more Negro soldiers would be conveyed to Tallahassee for an indefinite period. He issued this order in keeping with a request from City Manager Malcom N. Yancey.

Those cleared of murder charges, however, were convicted of rioting, and their sentences were the heaviest assessed by the court-martial board.

Corp. Luther Larkin, 23, Helena, Ark., was sentenced to 25 years in prison—the heaviest penalty. There originally were 42 defendants in the trial.

Negro Soldiers Sent to Prison

By Standard—Des Moines
12-21-44

Seattle, Wash.—Prison sentences aggregating more than 200 years were given Monday night to 27 Negro soldiers found guilty by a general court-martial board of rioting against an Italian service unit at Fort Lawton last Aug. 14.

Three of the defendants were found innocent of additional charges of murder in connection with the death of Pvt. Guglielmo Olivotto, whose body was found hanging in a nearby gully the morning after the riot.

The investigations are completed the results will be

Gen. Davis Probing Outbreak in Bristol

Call—Kansas City, Mo.
7-28-44

WASHINGTON. — (ANP) — Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis is in England investigating the racial outbreak between Negro and white American soldiers at Bristol on July 15, and will report his findings to the war department, Under Secretary Robert P. Patterson told his press conference last Thursday morning.

Nothing more than a "preliminary report" had been received, Patterson said, and so he was unable to give any explanation of the cause of the flare-up which resulted in the killing of one Negro, the hospitalizing of three Negroes and four whites, and the arrest of several others of both races.

According to this preliminary report, Patterson confirmed that going ahead under army auspices "there was a disorder in Bristol in connection with the slaying of on July 15 involving soldiers, a Negro soldier in Durham, N. C., both Negro and white, in which on July 8 by a white driver, a number of troops were injured. One of these is being conducted. Fort Lawton last Aug. 14. ed." He added that "MP's were assisted by white paratroopers and Negro soldiers in quelling the disturbance." The city of Bristol was placed off limits for a period of three days. The undersecretary also dismand. 7-31-44 closed that two investigations are

Racial Outbreaks in 1944 Few and Isolated; Call—Kansas City, Mo. Administration Revealed

11-10-44

By ERNEST E. JOHNSON

WASHINGTON. — (ANP) — With the summer well behind, the administration is breathing easier over the fact that racial outbreaks this year have been few and isolated. None with the exception of the Philadelphia Transit strike, took on any real proportions.

A survey just completed by the Associated Negro Press discloses that the close cooperation of several governmental agencies with private agencies and authorities is chiefly responsible for this condition.

The year 1943 plagued the country with no less than six outbreaks having as their causes racial and industrial friction accentuated, of course, by an assortment of social ills such as inadequate housing, transportation and recreational facilities. These occurred in such major cities as Beaumont, Texas, Detroit, New York, Baltimore, Los Angeles, and Mobile, Ala.

Contingents of the armed forces were used in several of these instances to quell the disturbances, but not until after there had been considerable loss of life and damage to property. The lessons of 1943 apparently were well-taken by federal, state and local authorities with the result that in 1944, to date, Philadelphia and New Iberia, Miss., are the only dark spots in the picture.

The dispatch with which the federal government handled the Philadelphia disturbance is being cited as a sterling example of what can be done by government in such crisis. 11-10-44

While the entry of the army into the the city may have been the dramatic high-point, it must not be overlooked that the War Manpower commission, the Office of Defense transportation, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Fair Employment Practice committee, National War Labor board, and the selective service system, seven agencies in all, had a hand in the outcome.

In New Iberia where three Negroes were run out of town because other Negroes had insisted upon a chance to learn welding in a government school there, indictments will be sought when the grand jury convenes this year.

To begin with, all threatening situations, based upon the knowledge gained in 1943, were closely watched from incipiency. Where industrial factor were involved. the FEPC carefully docketed developments. 11-10-44

Where military factors appeared to be the influence the war department has been on the job. Threats to civil rights violations have been watched by the office of the attorney general, and the Office of War Information has observed constantly mob conditions.

Apart from these federal agencies, those concerning themselves with such matters as housing, transportation and recreation have sought continuously to improve these conditions and, wherever possible, to eliminate or subordinate them as causes for outbreak.

It is a fact, too, that on one or two occasions this year, United States soldiers have been "within 10 minutes" of areas which appeared threatened with violence, and their presence has been known by the townspeople.

While no formal coordination has existed among all these agencies, informal conferences and exchange of information has gone on under the direction of a high administration official. This has been necessary in order that necessary action might be taken quickly.

Apart from the work of governmental agencies, local police authorities have in many places undergone courses in handling racial disputes. Perhaps the single important contribution in this field has been the work of J. E. Wockler and Theodore E. Hall whose program to prevent disorder and to improve relations between racial, religious and national groups has had wide distribution among local police authorities. 11-10-44

Called "the Police and Minority Groups," their program has been circulated in booklet form through the sponsorship of the International City Managers' association. It is a thorough-going job which treats the problem realistically and puts forth, on the basis of the experience of the police themselves, specific recommendations for the prevention and handling of riots.

The role played by private social agencies has been important also. Agencies such as the National Urban League and its 48 branches, the N.A.A.C.P. and its branches, the numerous interracial committees set up by private groups—and municipal authorities—have all done their jobs of easing tensions where they were known to exist, and of allaying fears and flames of temper where riots had broken out.

All have been quick to jump in counseling "cool heads."

To be sure, the employment picture has had something to do with the problem. In 1943 there was a rising demand for workers in all parts of the country bringing with it much migration and strain upon public and private facilities. It was, by contrast with 1944, an unstable period. The easing of the employment picture since has permitted for a levelling off of population shifts, of job shifts. The settling down process has now set in and the human pieces have begun to fit. 11-10-44

The concern of government and private organizations in the future will be the handling of dislocations which will inevitably arise with reconversion. It is pretty much agreed, however, that the experiences of the past few years have been learned, and that the task will not be too great.

3 Soldiers Get 25 Years as Claiborne Riot Trials Close

Tribune — Washington, D.C. 10-14-44

At the completion of the court martial last week of the colored soldiers allegedly involved in the riot at Camp Claiborne, La., on August 16, three more fighters were convicted and sentenced to serve terms of twenty-five years each.

The court martial resulted in thirteen convictions in fourteen trials. The death penalty was given Pvt. Leroy McGary, 24, Chicago; seven received life sentence, including 1st Sgt. Thomas A. Terry, of 3115 Georgia Avenue, N.W.; two received thirty years; three were sentenced to twenty-five years; one to nine years, and one was acquitted.

The trio given twenty-five years included: Pvts. Willie Gale, 29, Porters, Texas; Albert Young, 26, Newport News, Va., and William Woodson, 29, Cincinnati. They were found guilty of willful disobedience of superior officers and illegally carrying rifles and ammunition.

Army Not Satisfied With Bristol Shooting Probe

Weekly — New Orleans, La. 9-9-44

(By The Associated Negro Press)

Washington, Aug. 23. — War department investigation of the reported battling between Negro and white soldiers in Bristol, England, has not yet produced "satisfactory evidence" as to the causes of the outbreak, Assistant Secretary of War McCoy told the ANP Thursday.

No report has yet been received from Brig. Gen. B. O. Davis, who has conducted an investigation on the scene, said McCloy. However, from the provost marshal's office has come some information, he revealed. 9-9-44

According to this information, he said, it appears that two Negro soldiers were beaten by two white soldiers, newly arrived in the area, without provocation. The next evening there was a general clash between Negro and white soldiers, apparently a result of the previous incident.

In the major clash, one Negro soldier is said to have fatally stabbed a white MP and was then shot to death by another MP. As a result of the general disorder, McCloy said, all American troops were barred from Bristol for three nights and the newly arrived white soldiers were removed to another area shortly afterwards. 9-9-44

The clashes occurred about the middle of July. Immediately after first word of them became public the war department revealed that a thorough investigation had been ordered.

D. C. SERGEANT SHOT IN ALABAMA UPRISING

Courier — Pittsburgh, Pa. 6-3-44

WASHINGTON, D. C. (NNPA)—Sgt. Wellington D. Abrams, of this city, was reported in critical condition from a gunshot wound suffered in an exchange of shots between colored troops and white military police at Brookley Field near Mobile, Ala., last week. Army public relations said Sergeant Abrams was shot accidentally "while assisting the military police."

The incident reportedly occurred when white military police took a white civilian into the barracks of the Negro soldiers in an effort to identify a soldier the civilian alleged had robbed him.

ORDERS CONFINEMENT

Brig. Gen. James A. Mollison ordered all the colored troops confined to the military area. A white soldier was also reported seriously wounded. 6-3-44

General Mollison, in the midst of the affray, is reported to have gone to the Negro barracks, unarmed, and called on the soldiers to surrender their arms. They did.

Mrs. Viola Abrams, wife of the injured sergeant, left for Mobile after being notified by the War Department of the shooting.

GI Riot Trial Reveals Italian P. W. Suicide

Defender — Chicago, Ill. 12-30-44

SEATTLE—(ANP) — Gugliome Olivette, the Italian war prisoner whose body was found hanging from a guywire shortly after the Fort Lawton riot, was a suicide. That testimony was brought out during the recent riot-murder trial of 41 Negro soldiers here by defense counsel Maj. William Beeks. Beeks created a sensation in court when he produced a letter written on July 17 by the U. S. officer commanding the Italian service unit asking for a mental examination of Olivette. The dead Italian's fear of Negroes was the result of his experiences with French Morrocan troops who captured him in North Africa, American soldiers here by defendant J. Hurks and Pvt. William G. Jones, near the murder scene was instrumental in dropping the murder charges against them. It was the testimony of Negro soldiers badly beaten by the Italians and the Italian witnesses testified. Inability to obtain sufficient evidence to place the three accused Italian war prisoners prior to the Negro soldiers' trial, Sgt. Luther Larkin, Cpl. Luther Larkin, Sgt. Arfracas, which is attributed to with-drawing resentment by Negro soldiers against jim crow treatment. According to police, riots started when a native was accidentally knocked down by a white European. Natives formed passing automobiles and the whites attacked a native newspaper, stoning it.

The South African native has been "Jim Crowed" in a manner which would put the South to shame. Colored natives are barred from going into certain streets of the British Dominion and in a number of cases they have been attacked and beaten by a mob, and then arrested by the local police on a charge of disturbing the peace. A native and a white man are not allowed to walk together in the dominion.

According to the latest available information the riots were quelled, but the city expects another outbreak soon.

African Riots Between Races Over Jim Crow

N.Y. Amsterdam News 11-18-44

Johannesburg, S. A., Scene Of Week-end Turbulence

BY BERNARD JOHNPOLL

Rioting has again flared in Johannesburg, South Africa. During the weekend police using tear gas and clubs were attacking crowds of natives who were protesting mistreatment. According to police, riots started when a native was accidentally knocked down by a white European. Natives formed passing automobiles and the whites attacked a native newspaper, stoning it.

The South African native has been "Jim Crowed" in a manner which would put the South to shame. Colored natives are barred from going into certain streets of the British Dominion and in a number of cases they have been attacked and beaten by a mob, and then arrested by the local police on a charge of disturbing the peace. A native and a white man are not allowed to walk together in the dominion.

According to the latest available information the riots were quelled, but the city expects another outbreak soon.

61-1944

The New Deal And Riots

Courier — Pittsburgh, Pa.

There is currently considerable apprehension over the possibility of post-war racial conflict, and those who make this pessimistic prediction cite the regrettable disturbances in Detroit, Mobile, New York, Beaumont and other communities within the past decade and notably since Pearl Harbor. 10-14-44

That such conflicts may take place after the war is not unlikely, and if they do, the responsibility for them can be placed squarely at the door of the New Deal, because the present Administration's policies lead directly to racial conflict and have been responsible for them in the past.

The first unfortunate outbreak was in Harlem in 1936 and was fundamentally caused by the jim-crow New Deal policy which gave a disproportionate amount of the Government-financed jobs to white unemployed while giving the colored unemployed mostly home relief.

Proportionately there were three times as many Negroes on home relief as there were employed on made-work, such as the WPA and the PWA.

Even worse, the lion's share of the skilled jobs on Government-financed projects were given to white workers while Negroes were largely given the pick-and-shovel and leaf-raking jobs.

The Negroes are well aware of this gross discrimination, bitterly resented it and the teeming jobless population was accordingly brought to a violent state of mind which led to the lamentable outbreak. 10-14-44

THE DETROIT RIOT. It is a matter of historic fact that the resentment and ill-feeling which culminated in the destructive Detroit riot was primarily due to the timorous and vacillating policy of the New Deal with regard to the Sojourner Truth Housing Project, which was first earmarked for Negro occupancy, and then marked for white occupancy after protest and pressure by local Negrophobists, and then, when Negroes all over the country violently protested, it was again marked for Negro occupancy.

This blowing hot and cold on the part of the Administration stimulated each side to increased bitterness with the result that when Negroes finally attempted to move into the Sojourner Truth houses, they were attacked brutally by white ruffians and local police.

It is obvious that had the New Deal adopted a forthright policy of non-discrimination in the occupancy of all housing projects, the Detroit riot might not have occurred.

But in Detroit and elsewhere throughout the country, from the time of the first housing project at Arthurdale, West Viarginia, to the present, the New Deal yielded to the jim-crow policies of the South and the Southern Representatives and Senators who have dictated to this Administration on the Negro problem from the time of Roosevelt's first inaugural. 10-14-44

Before the first World War, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People won an historic case in the United States Supreme Court (The Louisville Case) which outlawed residential segregation.

It remained for the New Deal through its housing policy to undo the decision of the highest court of the land, and this jim-crow policy, fathered by Roosevelt, furthered racial separatism which is the fundamental cause of racial conflict.

THE FEPC FIASCO. Another fertile source of racial resentment and conflict which was a powerful contributory cause of race riots was the failure of President Roosevelt to press for passage of a law implementing his executive order 8802, "outlawing" racial discrimination in war jobs and allied enterprises.

The historic executive order had nothing but moral force behind it and those war contractors who failed to obey FEPC directors could not be fined or imprisoned. At the time the FEPC was formed, the Democratic party had an absolute majority in both houses of Congress and a law implementing the President's order could have been passed with the aid of liberal Republicans, even if the South had opposed it.

There is no record of President Roosevelt at any time having requested the passage of such a law.

On the contrary, it is a matter of record that the President actually sought to destroy the FEPC by transferring it from the Executive Department to the War Manpower Commission, thus making it necessary for Congress to appropriate funds for its support, and it is well known what a struggle there was to obtain its latest appropriation of $500,000. 10-14-44

Negrophobic Southern Democrats had a regular field day in Washington ridiculing and traducing Negroes during the debates on the appropriation bill.

As a result of the President's alternate blowing hot and cold on the FEPC, coulped with the fact that the agency had and has no punitive powers, there has been extreme difficulty in having Negroes upgraded in war jobs.

This failure has been the cause of widespread resentment on the part of Negro workers and has encouraged prejudiced white employers and workers to resist and evade FEPC directives, especially in the Democratic South where three-fourths of the Negroes live and work, but do not vote.

The Mobile and Beaumont riots were directly traceable to this wishy-washy administration policy and was a contributory factor in the Detroit riot.

A final factor stimulating racial hatred and conflict has been the calculated and vicious policy of racial discrimination and segregation in the armed forces, of which President Roosevelt is the Commander-in-Chief.

It would require a big book to adequately chronicle the insults, beatings, jailings and killings of young colored men as a result of this administration policy; it was and is unpatriotic and unnecessary.

This dastardly policy has been and is deeply resented by every American Negro and is responsible for the low morale of colored people and their lack of interest in the larger objectives of the war. 10-14-44

The President, who insists upon being known as the Commander-in-Chief, could have eliminated this jim-crow policy by a simple order to his military and naval subordinates, but he has steadfastly refused to do so, even though the Selective Service outlaws such discrimination.

There is no record of a single instance when the President has made any comment on this disgrace of democracy at home, although he has had much to say about saving democracy abroad.

While stressing his and our responsibility to save the conquered peoples of Europe and Asia from Fascist persecution, he has remained mum about the persecution of his own people here.

If there are race riots as a result of this white supremacy policy of the New Deal administiration, the responsibility must be laid at the door of President Roosevelt and his Dixie henchmen who have continually influenced him as they did President Wilson.

The only way to relieve some measure of interracial amity, tolerance and justice after the war is to oust the New Deal and all its workers and to elect an Administration that will not represent and cater to race haters.

ACCUSED RIOTERS PLEAD NOT GUILTY

West Virginia Herald — Huntington, W. Va.

11-21-44

Trial of the 43 Negro soldiers at Ft. Lawton accused of murder and rioting Aug. 14th was scarcely started when a continuance of the case was granted Mayor Wm. T. Beeks counsel for defense in order to make further preparations, this request was granted and the case continued to Monday at 9 o'clock a. m., Nov. 20th.

Several interesting and unusual scenes were transpired during the few hours the court was in session. One of the mosts interesting of them all was the cooperation of both the judge advocate and the counsel for the defense in seeing to it that there would be no cause for suspicion of race discrimination. Major William T. Beeks, Army counsel for defense, made a very favorable impression on the court, the accused, and the press, by seeing to it that all doubts as to the fairness of the trial was removed in the beginning.

The press and spectators present were treated to the usual scene of every member of the court being examined as prospective jurors in the civil courts. Major Beeks asked each member where they were born and reared, his occupation in civil life, and whether he belonged to any organization interested in Negro rights; whether he or any member of his family had any experience that would cause them to be prejudiced against Negroes. He also asked if returning a verdict of not guilty would embarass them, or accepting the word of a Negro soldier against that of a white soldier. None of the members of the court disqualified himself in replying to these questions, but Major Beeks exercised a peremptory challenge against Col. Paxton S. Campbell, a regular army officer whose examination disclosed that he was born in Lynchburg, Va. The colonel was asked to be excused from the court by Major Beeks. Lt. Col. Jean Jaworski, the trial judge advocate or "prosecutor" also exercised one peremptory challenge, excusing Lt. Col. Martin A. Fennell. This reduced the size of the court to 9. Lt. Col. Anthony F. Stechecher whose home is in Baltimore, Miss., the only member who might be considered a southerner.

Members of the Court

Major Hector J. Carpenter, Major Samuel A. McLennan, Maj. George N. Crocker, Capt. George N. Atkinson and Capt. Kenneth A. Weller. Other functionaries are Capt. Robert Branand, 3rd assistant trial judge advocate; Capt. Howard D. E. Noyd, assist. defense counsel, and 2nd Lt. Joseph P. Schepis, who was sworn in as interpreted for use in examining members of the Italian service units. Major Beeks objected to using one of the Italians as interpreter, for fear that the soldiers might be prejudiced.

All 43 of the prisoners entered pleas of not guilty through Major Beeks, their counsel for defense. The prisoners, neatly uniformed, and many of them wearnig ribbons denoting foreign service, and good conduct medals. Three relatives of defendants who had come from Chicago for the case were in attendance. They were Mrs. Sadie Hughes, mother of Pvt. Robert Sanders, 21; and Mrs. Jeanne Barber and H. D. Mock, wife and cousin of Pvt. Richcard Barber, 22.

Major Beeks indicated the defense will heavily depend on the difficulty of identifying one Negro soldier from another at night.

11-21-44

The Herald reporter was more than pleased with the opening session of the court, although a few hours was spent, many interesting things of great importance took place. We are pleased to inform the Herald readers that our sincere impression of the court as a whole pointed to fair play and justice to all concerned. The Citizens' Defense Committee selected from a cross section of representative persons, including church, business, organizations, professor, trades and labor unions will serve as defense observers. This unusual proceeding in an army court martial trial, was granted the Herald editor. The names of the following citizens were selected and promised to serve as defense observers of the court, during the many sessions: Rabbi Arthur Zukerman, George W. Woods, defense worker, NAACP rep.; Columbus Honeysuckle, business man; Rev. L. R. Hayes, minister; Carl Brooks, trades union official.

Wendell Norris, deputy sheriff.

John E. Prim, deputy prosecutor.

Watch the Herald for trial proceedings.

27 Negro Soldiers Convicted Of Rioting And Given Long Prison Sentences At Big Court Martial

Age—New York, N.Y.
12-23-44

Fort Lawton on August 14th.

SEATTLE, Wash. — Prison sentences totaling more than 200 years were given Monday night to twenty-seven Negro soldiers found guilty by a United States Army General Court Martial board of rioting against an Italian service unit at a near-by gully the morning after the riot.

Those cleared of the murder charges, however, were convicted of rioting and their sentences were the heaviest given by the Court Martial board. They were Cpl Luther Larkin, 23, of Helena, Ark.; twenty-five years in prison; Pvt. William G. Jones, 20, of Decatur, Ill., fifteen years; and Sgt. Arthuf J. Hurks, 22, of Houston, Tex., 12 years.

12-23-44

With the exception of a single defendant, the convicted men were sentenced also to dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of all pay in addition to the prison terms. The exception was Cpl. Riley L. Buckner, 25, of Houston, Tex., who was sentenced to six months at hard labor and forfeiture of two-thirds of his pay for the period.

In addition to dishonorable discharge, loss of pay and confinement, the sentences carried reduction to the rank of private for all non-commissioned officers. They were originally 42 defendants in the trial. One was dismissed early in the trial, thirteen were found not guilty at the end of the trial, and one, Pfc. Roy L. Montgomery, 23, of Greenwood, Miss., is in the hospital with pneumonia. His sentence will be pronounced later when he is discharged from the hospital.

12-23-44

All sentences will be subjected to review by the Judge Advocate General's department, which can reduce but not increase the penalties. A two-thirds majority of the court was required to convict.

The riot began, it was charged, over resentment of Negro soldiers against privileges denied to them but extended to the Italian ex-prisoners of war.

Refute Belief Detroit Riot Was Between Jews, Negroes

Norfolk Va.
11-4-44 Journal & Guide

DETROIT, Mich.—The wide-spread belief that the Detroit race riots of June, 1943, were caused by friction between Jews and Negroes is refuted in a report issued here last week by the Wayne University graduate school.

The study, first of a projected series on group conflicts, was begun in 1942 and was carried out by Donald C. Marsh, assistant professor of sociology at Wayne University, together with Mrs. Eleanor Paperno Wolf, both white, and Alvin D. Loving, the latter two graduate students at Wayne.

It was sponsored by the Wayne graduate school, the Jewish Community Council of Detroit, and the Detroit Branch NAACP.

11-4-44

Because the chief outbreaks were in the hands of Negroes and Jews, the report said, "some persons have been under the impression that they constituted essentially a Negro-Jewish conflict. Actually such was not the case. Rather it was a conflict between the two racial groups —whites and Negroes — and it might have been out in any densely-populated area in any part of the city."

20 FUNDAMENTAL CONCLUSIONS

The report lists 20 fundamental conclusions, among them the following:

Eighty percent of the Negroes interviewed felt that they had had pleasant relationships in the domestic service in the Jewish families, and 62 per cent were of the opinion that they were treated fairly by Jewish landlords. Over 40 per cent of Negro adult customers had traded with one Jewish store for a long time, indicating much less conflict than is popularly rumored."

11-4-44

Of the Negro youth interviewed, 50 per cent believe that Jews treat Negroes better than do non-Jewish whites, but 60 per cent said that they expected better treatment since Jews "know what it is to be persecuted." Jewish exploitation as shown by prices charged is highly exaggerated." In general, prices charged by Negro and white gentile stores tend to be higher for the same articles.

The Negro complaint that "Jews make money out of us, they live and spend their money elsewhere" does not seem justified, as all merchants doing business in the Hastings area, whether Jewish or Negroes, live elsewhere, if they can afford to do so.

11-4-44

NEGRO-JEWISH CONFLICT

"The amount of merchant customer conflict," the report concludes, "is more related to the general economic and social character area than to the factor of racial ownership. The lower the economic and social condition in a given area, the greater the amount of conflict engendered. In Detroit, this is illustrated by the presence of the greatest amount of Negro-Jewish conflict in the Hastings area, which is the poorest of the three areas studied."

27 Soldiers Convicted In Fort Lawton Case

People's Voice—New York, N.Y.
12-23-44

Three Charged with Italian's Death:

SEATTLE—Prison sentences totaling 200 years were given Monday to 27 soldiers found guilty by an army court martial of rioting against Italian prisoners of war at Fort Lawton on August 14. The three men who were charged with the murder of an Italian were cleared of those charges but were given the heaviest sentences for rioting.

They were Corp. Luther Larkin, of Houston, who was sentenced to Helena, Ark.; Pvt. William G. six months at hard labor and for-Jones, Decatur, Ill.; and Sgt. feiture of two-thirds of his pay Arthur J. Hurks, Houston, Tex., for the period. The sentences car-The men were also given dis-ried reduction to the rank of honorable discharges and forfeit-private for all non-commissioned officers.

Of the 42 who were court-martialed, Pfc. Milton Bratton of Excelsior Springs, Mo., was exonerated at the beginning of the trial.

12-23-44

Thirteen of the remaining 41 were acquitted at the conclusion of the court-martial. Some of the men testified that they had been threatened by investigators during their confinement before the trial as a following a reported free-for-all means of ringing confessions from affray by the Negro soldiers and some of them. The court ruled, Italian service troops on August 4, however, that no duress was used on a road near the latter's barracks, the Italian's body was found in obtaining the confessions. The third-degree charges were hanging from a guywire on the made by Cpl. Willie Prevost and post grounds. Pvt. Samuel Snow.

61-1944

"GOOD AMERICAN SOLDIERS"

News-Birmingham, Ala.

We like the sort of talk that came from Gen. James A. Mollison, commander of the Mobile Air Service Command, when he walked unarmed into the barracks of rioting Negro soldiers at Brookley Field the other day.

"This is not the conduct of good American soldiers," Gen. Mollison told the outfit, "and I do not propose to have under my command any troops who are not good American soldiers. You must be well disciplined and obedient to the commands of your officers."

The Negro soldiers were ordered by Gen. Mollison to surrender their arms. And they did so. 5-31-44

The general promised "impartial justice" for those responsible for the outbreak, and judging the general by his courage and his common sense command to his men, we feel sure that justice will be dealt out without fear or prejudice.

We do not pretend to know the background of the Brookley Field incident. It may be that the white military police or that white civilian workers did or said some things that helped agitate the riot. If so, they will be dealt with according to military regulations, we feel sure. But that does not excuse the unsoldierly action on the part of those who led the riot.

Negro soldiers who conduct themselves as "good American soldiers" certainly deserve to be treated as good American soldiers. But any group of soldiers that acts in an unsoldierly manner, whether they are black of white, should be dealt with firmly, according to military regulations.—Gadsden Times.

Court-Martial Finds Nine Service Negroes Guilty Of Riot, Mutiny

News-Birmingham, Ala.

MOBILE, Ala. — (AP) — Found guilty by an Army court-martial of charges growing out of a gun battle with white military police, nine Negroes were sentenced to terms ranging from 16 to 25 years at hard labor and were dishonorably discharged from the service Thursday. 6-30-44

The shooting took place at Brookley Field last May 24. Testimony disclosed that a white civilian accused a Negro of robbing him, and that when the civilian and military police approached the area where the Negro barracks were located, the Negroes opened fire.

During a pitched battle which raged until the post's commanding officer ordered the Negroes to cease firing, approximately 1,000 rounds of ammunition were fired by the Negroes, testimony revealed. Fifty rifles, a number of sub-machine guns and a "great amount" of ammunition were stolen from the arms room, it was disclosed.

Some of the defendants were found guilty of mutiny, failure to suppress mutiny and some were charged with rioting. Their home addresses were not listed. The nine, all privates, were identified as follows: 6-30-44

Clarence Rogers, 22, sentenced to 16 years; Willie Ward, 20, to 18 years; Willie Fleetwood, 21, to 16 years; Edward C. Reese, 22, to 25 years, and Willie Wright, 21, to 19 years—all inducted into the Army at Ft. Benning, Ga.

Garfield Thomas, 19, sentenced to 18 years; Enos Bailey, to 22 years; John E. Grant, 20, to 25 years, all three inducted at Cincinanti, and Willie E. Lane, 24, sentenced to 25 years, inducted at Camp Blanding, Fla.

General Quells Outbreak of Negro Troops

Rome, Ga., News-Tribune

5-25-44

MOBILE, Ala., May 25.—(AP)—Negro troops at nearby Brookley Field exchanged shots with white military police there early today before surrendering their arms at the personal order of Brig. Gen. James A. Mollison, commanding the Mobile Air Service Command, who walked unarmed into the midst of the affray and ordered it stopped.

The General said one soldier was seriously wounded by accident during the exchange and is in the field hospital.

Gen. Mollison, accompanied only by two aides, drove to the darkened negro barracks while the firing was in progress and addressed the troops to end the trouble.

"This is not the conduct of good American soldiers," he told them, "And I do not propose to have under my command any troops who are not good American soldiers. You must be well disciplined and obedient to the commands of your officers."

He commanded the negroes to surrender their arms and they did so, ending the incident. Gen. Mollison ordered the negro troops confined to the military area pending an inquiry. He promised "impartial justice" for those responsible for the outbreak, which began shortly after midnight. 5-25-44

A white civilian had complained to military police that he had been robbed by a negro soldier, and the police took him into the negro barracks area in an effort to identify the robber. The firing began when the civilian and the military police arrived.

NINE SOLDIERS GET LONG TERMS IN ALA. RIOT

Defender—Chicago, Ill

7-8-44

Brookley Field Privates Accused Of Mutiny

Alabama

In Court Martial

By JOHN LeFLORE
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

MOBILE, Ala.—"You men think you can come down here and change customs of the South but the army will win in the end!"

That significant reprimand was given by Col. Donald Hudson former Brookley Field commander, to colored soldiers at the base as an aftermath of a bloody gun battle between 437th Aviation Squadron troops and white MP's recently.

This week an army court martial indicated the hard strategy by which Dixie Army officials hope to win the Battle of the Color Line in the South.

Nine colored soldiers, from a teen age youth to young men not over 25 years old, convicted on charges of mutiny, were sentenced this week to long hard labor prison terms ranging from 16 to 25 years for their alleged parts in the disturbance, which occurred on the night of May 24. 7-8-44

The soldiers and their ages are: Pvt. Clarence N. Rogers, 22; Pvt. Garfield Thomas Jr., 19; Pvt. Enos W. Bailey, 20; Pvt. Willie Ward Jr., 20; Pvt. Willie Fleetwood, 21; Pvt. Willie E. Wright, 21; Pvt. Edward C. Reese, 21; Pvt. John E. Grant, 25; and Pvt. Willie B. Lane, 21.

Accused of Mutiny

The court martial also imposed dishonorable discharges and a forfeiture of any pay or allotments due to the men.

The soldiers were members of the 437th Aviation Squadron and the 4906 AAF Base Unit.

They were accused of violating Sections 66, 67, and 89, of the Articles of War, dealing specifically with mutiny, failure to suppress mutiny, and rioting. All of the defendants entered pleas of not guilty.

Witnesses for the prosecution included white commissioned officers, several colored and white non-commissioned officers, and colored and white privates, the white non-commissioned officers and privates being members of the military police.

The prosecution was led by Lt. Col. William McCaw, a Texan, who served twice as attorney-general of his state, and three terms as district attorney at Dallas. 7-8-44

Only white officers served as prosecution and defense counsel. No colored commissioned officers are stationed in this area.

Animosity Between Soldiers, MP's

Although the immediate cause of the trouble on the night of May 24, was due to the alleged rude manner of investigation conducted by white MP's of a complaint made by a white civilian that a colored soldier had beaten and robbed him, the soldiers charge that they had been subjected to abuse and brutality at the hands of the white military police for several months.

After the white civilian had told his story to the military police, the soldiers aver that the MP's "drove us like dogs" from the bus stop near the troops' isolated quarters, back into the wire fence enclosed section "where we are segregated like animals." A high wire fence with a strand of barbed wire at the top surrounds the Negro soldiers' quarters. 7-8-44

Colored soldiers are not permitted on the main reservation where the white troops live in up-to-date barracks, unless they have passes.

Arrogance Cause of Trouble

The colored soldiers declared that the determination of the military police to force their way into the Negro quarters without showing proper identification to the sentry on duty at the time, caused the colored men to take whatever steps they could to protect themselves.

It was also revealed that the white civilian who reported to the MP's that he had been beaten and robbed, had not been robbed. He was beaten by a colored soldier because he, the white civilian, had attempted to make indecent proposals to a young colored woman, according to a statement made by several soldiers.

Lieut. Col. McCaw of the prosecution told the court martial that an estimated 1,000 rounds of ammunition were fired in the more than an hour battle between the soldiers and the military police.

However, only Sergt. Wellington Abrams, of the 437th Aviation Squadron, was wounded. 7-8-44

Five Aid Prosecution

Among the Negro soldiers who testified for the prosecution was a Sgt. Curtis Nunnally, of the 437th, who testified that he saw Pvts. John Grant, Willie B. Lane, Enos Bailey, and Edward Reece, four of the defendants, with guns.

Nunnally testified on cross-examination that he had been under arrest and in the guard house for a considerable time after the riot.

Four other Negro soldiers—Pvt. Ephraim Davis, Pvt. Carlton Richardson, Pvt. James Rucker, and Corp. Peter Boston, also testified for the prosecution.

Pvt. Luther Bullock, now being threatened with possible trial by McCaw, First Sergt. William Jarvis, and Pvt. Robert Rutherford, were among the defense witnesses.

Sentences were imposed on the soldiers as follows

Pvt. Rogers, 16 years
Pvt. Thomas, 16 years
Pvt. Bailey, 22 years
Pvt. Ward, 18 years
Pvt. Fleetwood, 16 years
Pvt. Wright, 19 years
Pvt. Reese, 25 years
Pvt. Grant, 25 years
Pvt. Lane, 25 years

All sentences are subject to review by Brig. Gen. James A. Mollison, of the Mobile Air Service Command, the judge advocate general, the secretary of war, and the President. 7-8-44

Negro Soldiers And White M.P.'s Shoot

Age—New York, N. Y.

6-3-44

It Out In Alabama

MOBILE, Ala.—Brigadier General James A. Mollison, commanding the Mobile Air Service Command, ordered all Negro troops at Brookley Field confined to the military area Thursday, following an early morning exchange of shots between Negro soldiers and white military policemen.

The General said that no one was killed or wounded in the exchange of gunfire, but that a white soldier received a serious gunshot wound in an accident. He promised "impartial justice" after an investigation of the affray, which occurred shortly after midnight. 6-3-44

A white civilian is said to have complained to military police that he had been robbed by a Negro soldier, and the military police took him into the area where Negro troops are quartered in an effort to find the alleged robber. The shooting followed.

In the midst of the affray, General Mollison went to the barracks of Negro soldiers and ordered them to surrender their arms, telling them that "this is not the conduct of good American soldiers."

WHITES IGNORE COMMANDS OF NEGRO SENTRY

Defender—Chicago, Ill

6-3-44

Force Way Into Camp; Guns Roar, Staff Sergeant Shot

By JOHN LeFLORE
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

MOBILE, Ala. — In a gun battle between white military police and colored soldiers at the Brookley Field army air depot here, early last Thursday morning, Staff Sgt. Wellington D. Abrams was critically wounded when shot in the abdomen as he sought to move a jeep from the trouble zone, on order of his commanding officer, a Capt. R. M. Green.

Abrams was accidentally wounded as he was caught in the crossfire between the MP's and the colored soldiers. 6-3-44

A rumor that two MP's had been killed in the battle was denied by Brig. Gen. James A. Mollison, commanding general of the Mobile Air Service Command, in a report to the Defender.

Starts With MP's

The trouble began when white military police brought a white civilian to the section of the reservation where colored troops are quartered, for the purpose of attempting to identify a soldier who, he had charged, had been beaten and robbed him near the north gate of the Field.

According to the statement of a number of colored soldiers interviewed, a sentry was on duty at the entrance to the section, when the white MP's disregard the soldier's order to halt, attempted to force in their jeep. Other colored soldiers, smarting under abuse by the MP's, joined in the battle. None of the participants was wounded. 6-3-44

Brig. Gen. Mollison stated that an investigation had so far revealed

Air Base Riot

...Mobile, Ala.---(By mail to Brooklyn Field Army Air Base) were reported early [illegible] following an [illegible] between white military [illegible] officers.

[illegible] were injured in the [illegible] hour-long [illegible] between [illegible] military police [illegible] officers.

[illegible] the [illegible] at the field [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

61-1944

California

700 BATTLE AFTER CAB CALLOWAY PLAYS FOR BIG DANCE ON COAST

Plaindealer — Kansas City, Kan.

3-17-44

Oakland, Calif.—Following Cab Calloway's appearance at the Municipal Auditorium in which he played many of his Hi-De-Ho tunes, the vast audience which danced to his rhythm left the hall and started one of the most outrageous brawls which resulted in the serious injury of five sailors, Monday night. There were 15,000 merrymakers in attendance.

The five sailors were stabbed, one of them critically, Tuesday in a riot involving more than 700 persons in the heart of downtown Oakland.

3-17-44

Most seriously injured was Darrell Wiley, a white sailor, who was reported in a critical condition.

Police reported the riot broke out when Dexter attempted to board a San Francisco-bound Key system train at 12th and Broadway jammed with Negroes returning to San Francisco from the dance. Dexter was stabbed and shoved off the train, police said, and onlookers came to his aid. Negroes piled off the train, other spectators joined the fray and a free-for-all battle raged for a block until quelled by police, the navy shore patrol and army military police after a half-hour struggle.

3-17-44

Some trouble developed earlier, police said, after 10,000 Negroes jammed into the auditorium to dance to the music of Cab Calloway's orchestra and 5000 others were shut out when the doors were closed at 10:30 P. M. Rowdy members of the crowd outside smashed several doors and windows, police said.

61-1944

England

U. S. NEGRO AND WHITE SOLDIERS BATTLE; ONE DIES

Tribune—Chicago, Ill.
7-19-44

LONDON, July 18 (AP).—United States troops have been forbidden to enter Bristol since a fight among 200 Negro and white soldiers there at midnight Saturday.

One Negro soldier was killed. Three Negroes and four whites required hospital treatment. White and Negro military police finally quelled the troops and arrested four. The Daily Mail said no British troops were involved.

7-19-44

[The racial angle was deleted from an earlier dispatch in error by a subordinate American military censor in London. The deletions were restored by the chief censor.]

Bristol Riot Probe Proves Unsatisfactory

Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y.

War Department Still Seeking Cause of Rift, Secretary McCloy Says

8-26-44

WASHINGTON, (ANP)—War Department investigation of the reported battling between Negro and white soldiers in Bristol, England, has not yet produced "satisfactory evidence" as to the causes of the outbreak, Asst. Secy of War McCloy told the ANP Thursday.

No report has yet been received from Brig. Gen. D. O. Davis who has conducted an investigation on the scene, said McCloy. However, from the provost marshal's office has come some information, he revealed.

According to this information, he said, it appears that two Negro soldiers were beaten by two white soldiers, newly arrived in the area, without provocation. The next evening there was a general clash between Negro and white soldiers, apparently a result of the previous incident.

In the major clash, one Negro soldier is said to have fatally stabbed a white MP and was then shot to death by another MP. As a result of the general disorder, McCloy said, all American troops were barred from Bristol for three nights and the newly arrived white soldiers were removed to another area shortly afterwards.

8-26-44

The clashes occurred about the middle of July. Immediately after first word of them became public the War Department revealed that a thorough investigation had been ordered.

Soldiers Clash In England; 1 Dead

7-29-44

LONDON—A clash that occurred late Saturday night between colored and white American soldiers stationed in Bristol resulted in the death of one of the colored soldiers and injuries to scores of combatants on both sides it was reported this week.

Tension that existed following the outbreak caused army authorities to cancel leaves of soldiers there and forbid other American troops from entering the town. Circumstances involved in the clash have not been revealed.

Colored and white military police succeeded in restoring order after six soldiers were placed under arrest and others ordered to remain off the streets. The disturbance, as first reported, failed to mention the race angle, due to army censorship. The name of the slain soldier, as well as those of the injured, have not been released.

The Secretary of War in his regular press conference Thursday morning commented on these two items:

In the riot in Bristol, England, there were three colored service men hospitalized and 4 whites. This riot occurred Sunday night, July 16. Nobody knows how the riot started. White and Negro service men and English civilians were involved. The riot was quelled by white and colored MP's assisted by white paratroopers and Negro servicemen.

Gen. B. O. Davis, who is over there, conducted an investigation as is Major Homer Roberts who is also over there.

7-29-44

In the case of the bus driver killing the colored soldier in Durham, N. C., the Army is conducting two special investigations—one by Inspector General's office and the other by the Area Commander's office.

Results of the investigations are to be turned over to the Justice Department, and the Secretary of War is anxious to see that complete justice is done immediately.

Colored, White
Defender—Chicago, Ill

61-1944

Florida

Riot Squads Disperse 4000 In Tampa Mob

Post—Washington, D.C.
2-22-44

Tampa, Fla., Feb. 21 (AP).—Twenty-four Negroes were in custody today after a street disturbance in which city and county riot squads and military police dispersed a crowd of 4000 persons seeking release of an arrested Negro.

The original arrest, said Director Marshall H. Doss of the State bureau of narcotics, grew out of a series of overnight raids involving sale of marijuana.

Doss and other officers gave this account of the disturbance:

Capt. W. L. Tedford, assistant intelligence officer for the Third Air Force, was driving one of the raiding cars and blew his horn to clear traffic on Central ave., in Tampa's largest Negro section. He charge that a Negro cursed him, and said he then ordered military police following in another car to arrest the man. 2-22-44

The Negro was taken to a nearby military police station, and within a short time a crowd, estimated by Police Chief Norman McClelland at 4000, assembled outside demanding the man's release.

City and county riot squads and military police with an armored car dispersed the gathering, and 24 Negroes were arrested, 3 slightly injured.

Doss said four white men were arrested on narcotic charges.

Two "Riots" On Same Day In One City

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

MP's and Civilian Cops Summoned to Halt Outbreaks in Tallahassee

10-14-44

TALLAHASSEE Fla. (ANP)—Military and civilian police were summoned twice here last Sunday to answer riot calls in the Frenchtown section. Both summons were issued when soldiers from Camp Gordon Johnston became involved in a fracas with local police and later when the soldiers had a fight with MP's from Dale Mabry field.

The First Affair

The first affair between the local police and the soldiers could have been avoided if the local police had allowed the colored MP's from Dale Mabry field to arrest a soldier in this section. The police took things into their own hands, thereby creating excitement among the soldiers when they approached one of the men with drawn pistols. The soldiers then surrounded the police and would not allow them to take the soldier. He was later removed by white MP's from Dale Mabry.

The Second Affair

The second affair started about two hours later between six drunken soldiers. The fight among these soldiers was partially quelled by the Negro MP's. When the fighting subsided, it was found that one soldier had been knocked out by the MP's armed only with billets. When the MP's picked up the injured soldier they were rushed by a number of Gordon Johnston soldiers. The MP's were outnumbered 20 to 1. They fought off the soldiers until reinforcements arrived. About 13 soldiers were arrested for their part in the fight. 10-14-44

Later Brig. Gen. Holcombe, commanding officer of Camp Gordon Johnston, announced that no more Negro soldiers would be conveyed to Tallahassee for an indefinite period. He issued this order in keeping with a request from City Manager Malcolm N. Yancey.

61-1944

Historical

COURAGEOUS FIGHTER

AUGUSTUS L. WILLIAMS

Williams Beat City In Chicago Riot Cases

Defender- Chicago, Ill

1-29-44

By DETON J. BROOKS Jr.

Old timers will never forget the sultry month of July 1919, for bursting through the summer calm like a blinding explosion came the Chicago race riot. Hate-inflamed mobs roamed the streets beating and murdering innocent victims and paralyzing normal everyday activities.

The city stood still, terror-stricken — slave to a vicious racism which transformed decent human beings into murderous beasts.

During this outburst, however, there were men who kept their equilibrium. Neither afraid of the mob, nor succumbing to its poisonous virus, they maintained a calm courage while endangering their own lives in an endeavor to bring the riot under control.

They were the real heroes of Chicago's worst race strife. And when old timers recall this trouble, one of the names which comes to mind is that of Attorney Augustus L. Williams.

Neighbor Seeks Help

On Monday morning following the first clashes the Sunday before Williams was just arising when he heard a loud knocking at his door. It was a tearful neighbor woman who had come seeking help. Her little 10-year-old niece was arriving from Louisville, Ky., and because of the rioting she could hire no cab nor car with which to meet the child. Rumor had it that two Negroes had been killed that very morning in the loop and yet it was necessary to cross it to get to the Union Station. No one wantetd to risk traveling that far from the South Side.

But when Williams heard her story he called his chauffeur and in his brand new car the three of them sped toward the station. They were nearly through the loop when a group of hoodlums spotted them and tried to intercept the car. Two swung onto the running board, but looked into the muzzle of a 45 calibre pistol and quickly jumped off. They smashed the windshield with bricks, put a few dents in the fenders, but fortunately no one was injured. The trio got the little girl and returned home safely.

During the remaining days of the riots, Williams was constantly in the streets. He acted as mediator between a group of white and Negro mobsters, he ran a gauntlet through hostile territory to take food to Negro families of his acquaintance who were stranded; he sat in conferences with white city leaders to devise ways of control; and when the riots were over, he was selected at a big mass meeting to represent the Negro community before the coroner who was investigating the deaths. This investigation took ten long weeks, yet Williams never missed a day. He discharged this duty more religiously than some men would had they been paid. 1-29-44

Wins Riot Cases

In order to discourage suits against the city Attorney General Edward Brundage ruled that the city of Chicago was not liable for the deaths resulting from the outbreaks, consequently most lawyers were reluctant to take the cases. Williams didn't agree with this opinion and offered to fight the cases for relatives of those killed. He won every one of the cases he tried collecting $135,000 from the city. In this way he became known as a personal injury legal specialist and even today he gets a large amount of this type of work.

A. L. Williams is a man who literally raised himself up by his own bootstraps. The courage he showed during the riots was not something new, it is an inherent element in his character. The riot merely provided fitting background to spectacularly focus attention on this admirable trait.

In fact, it was this same quality—this dogged perseverance which had carried him through to become a successful lawyer. He had all the handicaps that come from being poor and colored. At 21 he was a janitor in a police station. Or if we trace him back further we will see that he was born in a little town in South Carolina — so little in fact, that it didn't have a name, it had a number. A. L.'s birthplace is called 96, South Carolina.

Comes North

At 16 Williams left home and struck out for himself. He landed in Chicago in 1892 with three dollars in his pocket, paid that amount for one week's room rent at "Mushmouth" Johnson's rooming house and started to look for a job.

He got into politics during the 1895 mayoralty campaign when George B. Swift ran as the Republican nominee. His candidate won and A. L. was rewarded with a janitor's job at the Hyde Park Police station. Instead of refusing it, he used this job as an opportunity to go to school. Through the influence of some of his white friends he was admitted to the exclusive business school of that day, and after he finished was given a position in the County Treasurer's office as deputy auditor. He stayed there for 10 years and in the meantime studied at the Illinois College of Law which has since become DePaul University Law School.

Williams finished in 1910 and has been practicing ever since. One of the most interesting cases he recalls handling was his first. It involved a boy who while a convict at Joliet Penitentiary and working in a rock quarry was partially blinded by an explosion. He was so badly maimed that he was discharged. 1-29-44

He had gone to every big lawyer in town trying to get one of them to take his case, when he was finally referred to Williams. Knowing he couldn't sue the state, Williams applied for relief for his client before the Court of Claims. But they turned him down. Then he went to the Illinois Legislature and filed a bill. It was passed and his client got $3,000.

This was the first case of its type on record in the United States. And it was a pretty good start for a small town southern boy who had come so far and worked so hard to become a lawyer in a bigtime industrial city.

61-1944

Kentucky

Prevent Riot At Fort Knox

Daily World — Atlanta, Ga.

BY HARRY S. McALPIN

(Washington Bureau of the Atlanta Daily World and NNPA)

8-24-44

WASHINGTON—Flagrant violation and disregard of the recent orders of the War Department to cease discrimination and segregation of Negro troops in post facilities throughout the country almost resulted in a riot at Fort Knox, Ky. Tuesday night.

Hundreds of enlisted men at Goodman Field, Ky., an adjunct to Fort Knox, gathered in an ugly mood when two of their number returned to the post, after having been ordered out of the Fort Knox theatre following their refusal to be shunted into a segregated section "Reserved for Negroes."

The men at Goodman, already to the breaking point because of grievances in their own camp, were prevented from marching on the theatre for a show down by the quick and heady action of three of their Negro captains. One hundred and fifty white military police had been stationed around the theatre, fully armed, when word spread the Negroes were incensed.

Wednesday morning Col. N. Butler Briscoe, commanding officer at Fort Knox, told the NNPA that he sees no reason for changing the segregation policy at the theatre, despite the orders of Major Gen. Ulio, Adjustant General of the United States Army. He claimed never to have seen the War Deparment order.

In an interview, he put he entire blame on a few "---agitators."

"The policy at Fort Knox is that a man in uniform is a soldier and all soldiers get treated the same," he declared. "But they are expected to stay in their places, stay in line and not try to get out of line." When they do, he stated; "they are upsetting the system." 8-24-44

The colonel claimed to have known colored people all of his life; that he grew up with them. He says he knows they do not want to sit scattered around the theatre. "I have noticed on the buses, the parties want to sit together. We assigned these seats in the theatre so the parties can sit together. When they come in the ushers lead them to that section, just as if you had children—when children come into a theatre, you lead them to the section for them."

61-1944

Louisiana

Camp Claiborne Riot Called Exaggeration

Advertiser — Montgomery, Ala. 9-15-44

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14.—(U.P.)—Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson said today an investigation had shown that reports of a mutiny last month by 16,000 negro soldiers at Camp Claiborne, La., were "greatly exaggerated."

"There was a disturbance at Camp Claiborne," Stimson said. "Nothing like the number of troops stated were involved. The matter is in progress of investigation and punishment."

Stimson denied rumors that punishment of offenders was being withheld until after the election on orders from the White House. 9-15-44

"There has been no intervention on the part of the administration," he said.

CAMP CLAIBORNE RIOTERS CONVICTED

10-8-44

ALEXANDRIA, La., Oct. 2—(AP)—Four more convictions, making 10 in 11 trials of Negro soldiers accused of rioting at Camp Claiborne on the night of Aug. 16, were announced Monday by Brig. Gen. Louis F. Guerre, camp commander. Three received life sentences and one 30 years at court-martial trials.

The three Negroes given life were 1st Sgt. Thomas A. Terry, Washington, D. C.; Sgt. Charlie B. Coleman Huntington, W. Va.; and Pvt. Lawrence M. Beale, Philadelphia. They were charged as ringleaders in an attempt to incite soldiers to mutiny and refusing to obey orders from superior officers, said the public relations announcement.

Terry and Coleman, the testimony said, admitted being armed with carbines against orders and Beale removed an Army truck from a motor pool intending to transport men involved in the mutiny, said the announcement. 10-3-44

T5 Willie C. Edwards, Lovelady, Tex., received the sentence of 30 years at hard labor for joining in the mutiny. It was revealed that Edwards was one of the group that attempted to storm a supply office "in an attempt to procure ammunition."

Judge Advocate General Office To Review Case; NAACP Presses Inquiry

Weekly — New Orleans, La. 10-14-44

According to an announcement released by Daniel E. Byrd, president of the New Orleans Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a stay of execution and review of his case has been granted to Private Leroy McGary, 24, 2253 West Lake Street, Chicago, Ill., who received the maximum penalty of death, and was transferred to Fort Sam Houston, Tex., in the recent army court-martial at Camp Claiborne, La. Byrd obtained this information Monday morning, October 9. Private George S. Washington, 19, 3305 Gillespie Street, Houston, Tex., who received a sentence of life imprisonment in the same court-martial, has also been granted a review of his case, Byrd said.

Failure of commanding officers of army centers throughout the South in taking positive action protecting Negro soldiers under their immediate command has led to innumerable injustices to men of color in the uniform of their country, and the Camp Claiborne situation here in Louisiana is one of the worst examples. Protesting the trials and convictions of soldiers who were implicated in the infamous Camp Claiborne riot, the New Orleans Branch of the NAACP wired President Franklin Roosevelt requesting an investigation of the whole affair which led to the racial clash on August 17. A copy of the telegram was sent to Attorney Thurgood Marshall, special NAACP counsel, who forwarded a copy of the telegram to Colonel R. E. Kunkel, chief, Military Justice Division of the Judge Advocate General's office.

10-14-44

10-14-44

Marshall plans to obtain a transcript of record and appear before the reviewing board in behalf of the two soldiers. Attempts are being made to obtain a review of cases in behalf of the other soldiers convicted in the Camp Claiborne court-martial. 10-14-44

Reports coming from Alexandria, La., located near the site of Camp Claiborne, indicate that the riot was the result of a series of incidents involving white civilians and soldiers who were intent on avenging an alleged assault on a 61-year old white woman by an unidentified Negro soldier. Both white soldiers, military police included, and white civilians, state and parish police included, formed the posse which searched for the supposed Negro soldier who had allegedly criminally assaulted the aged woman.

One Soldier Sentenced To Death, 2 Get Life And A Fourth 9 Years In Louisiana Camp Rio

Age — New York, N.Y. 10-7-44

ALEXANDRIA, La. — One Negro soldier has been sentenced to death, two sentenced to life imprisonment and another to nine years at hard labor, Brigadier General Louis F. Guerre announced this week. The sentences followed their conviction by a general court martial in connection with a riot on August 17 in which a white officer and two Negro enlisted men were shot and wounded. 27 Negro soldiers were arrested during the investigation.

Sentenced to death was Private Leroy McGary, of Chicago, who was tried on charges of mutiny and other military offenses.

Life imprisonment sentences were given to Private George E. Washington, of Houston, Tex., and Private Philip Davis, 19, of Montgomery, Ala. Private Conway Price, 30, of Brooklyn, was sentenced to nine years at hard labor.

The cases will be reviewed by the commanding general of the 8th Service Command and the judge advocate at Washington. 10-7-44

Official announcement of the disturbance at the camp said that a white lieutenant and two Negro enlisted men were shot and wounded in a riot which was provoked by a report that a Negro soldier had been killed the day before at the camp.

1 to Die, 4 Get Life in Claiborne Riot

Afro-American Balt. Md. 10-7-44

CAMP CLAIBORNE, La.—One soldier was sentenced to death, four to life imprisonment, one to thirty years at hard labor, and one to nine years, while a sixth was freed by a general court-martial here last week for their reputed participation in a riot on August 16.

The soldiers and their sentences are:

Pvt. Leroy McGary, Chicago, death;

Pvt. George S. Washington, life imprisonment.

Pvt. Philip Davis, Montgomery, Ala., life imprisonment.

First Sgt. Thomas A. Terry, Washington, life imprisonment;

Sgt. Charlie B. Coleman, Huntington, W.Va., life imprisonment;

Pfc. Ernest B. Collier, Orlando, Fla., thirty years at hard labor;

Sgt. Conway Price, Brooklyn, N.Y., nine years at hard labor.

Pvt. William Smith, Jr., of Brooklyn, N.Y., exonerated.

Cases of the men, who were tried on charges of mutiny and other military offenses, will be reviewed by the commanding general of the Eighth Service Command and the Judge Advocate at Washington, said Brig. Gen. Louis F. Guerre, who made the announcement. 10-7-44

False Report Blamed

During the disturbance, believed to have been provoked by a report that a colored soldier had been killed at the camp on August 16, two colored enlisted men and a white lieutenant were shot. Twenty-seven colored soldiers were later arrested.

On August 16, a colored soldier was slain at nearby Camp Livingston when he reportedly attempted to use an army truck without permission and this is the report that was evidently heard here.

Officials report that the trouble took place in the Army Service Forces Training Center here and that many colored soldiers were armed with rifles obtained when their arms racks were broken into and several shots were fired in the vicinity.

The charge against Sgt. Price was that he held two officers prisoners at gun point during the outbreak, thus failing to discharge his duty as a non-commissioned officer, that of attempting to suppress mutiny.

Bristol Rioting Probed by Army

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON—War Department investigation of the causes of a reported outbreak last month between colored and white soldiers in Bristol, England, has produced no "satisfactory evidence" declared Assistant Secretary of War McCloy, Thursday.

A report from Brig. Gen. B. O. Davis, who conducted an investigation is forthcoming, he said.

Army Probes Rioting In Louisiana Town

Amsterdam News — New York, N.Y.

8-26-44

The most amazing story of American Jim Crow and intolerance practiced against Negroes wearing the uniform of the U. S. Army is being slowly fashioned in Louisiana where the War Department is reported to be investigating rumors of rioting against Negro personnel by white civilians from a nearby city adjoining an army camp; the killing of a Negro soldier, and the use of bloodhounds by civilian whites to track down a colored soldier accused of attacking a white girl.

The story is centered in Camp Claiborne and Camp Livingston, both in the heart of the Negro-hating Louisiana backwoods. Anouncement on Thursday, summation of the various reports and stories about the incident which was said to have taken place during the week of August 7 and to have come to a bloody climax on August 15 and 16, indicates that many Negro servicemen are under arrest. From Alexandria, La., to the Amsterdam News by telephone from a newspaperman on the spot, comes the following story:

The Disturbance

"Civilian and military authorities today (Aug. 18) reported everything 'quiet' following Wednesday night's disturbance at nearby Camp Claiborne when two Negro enlisted men and a white lieutenant were injured in a clash. Claiborne announced the arrest of 27 Negro soldiers and said a thorough investigation of the fracas was underway.

8-26-44

"Reports that Alexandria had been put off limits for Negro soldiers were denied. Chief of Police Geogre Gray said that ithe city with a war-swelled population of 60,000, and the hub of seven military posts, was quiet and normal.

"No serious crime has been committed by soldiers, whites or Negroes in Alexandria," sad the chief. "Of course, all soldier cases are handled by white and Negro military police and the usual number of minor arrests are being made."

"Camp Livingston also reported everything quiet following the fatal shooting of a Negro soldier last Wednesday night (Aug. 16) when he allegedly tried to drive a stolen government truck through the camp fence, refusing to obey M. P. orders to halt.

8-26-44

"Sheriff Grady Kelley said conditions in Rapides Parish outside of Alexandria were normal with the exception of two criminal assault cases involving Negro soldiers and white women, one of them the wife of a sergeant, which occurred within a week near Camp Claiborne. No arrests were made but investigations are continuing and the Army is cooperating, he said.

Sheriff's Statement

"Capt. Houston Greene, of the State Police, concurred in the sheriff's statement. The Claiborne disturbance, the most serious outbreak involving Negro soldiers, resulted from reports which the Army denied that a Negro soldier had been killed, the public relations office at that camp said.

8-26-44

From another source, the Amsterdam News was given this view of the Claiborne situation. During the week of Aug. 7 on an afternoon, many white civilians were seen in the Camp Claiborne area with shotguns and bloodhounds. On investigation and inquiry by soldiers, it was claimed that they had come to track down a soldier who allegedly raped a white woman in an area restricted to military personnel, a demolition area in which only soldiers who are in active training are allowed. A woman or other civilians are not allowed in such an area.

For three or four days, it was revealed, these white civilians were in the camp hunting the alleged rapist. Bloodhounds led them many places—into various regiments of the camp. It got so, it was reported, that the white civilians started harassing Negro soldiers who were on hikes. It was said that white soldiers and civilians would grab Negroes off the line and take off their shoes and force them, in most instances, stragglers on long arduous hikes, to walk barefooted back to camp.

8-26-44

On Wednesday night, August 16, it was said, a report was spread that Negro soldiers had been fired upon and rumor had it that a Negro soldier had been killed in the bivouac area. In another section of the camp in East Claiborne, at the same time, a fight was said to have been going on between Negroes and white soldiers and civilians. Four Negro soldiers were said to have been slain in the rioting and Negro soldiers were reported to have broken into the supply room and to have taken out machine guns and rifles and proceeded to the battle to protect themselves.

8-26-44

The alleged fight lasted from about 10 to 11 p. m. It apparently quieted down somewhat and rockets were reported sent up from the camp area to let incoming soldiers know that a riot was taking place and in order to bring in shock troops to quell the riot. All over the camp, it was said, Negro soldiers started organizing themselves and investigating what was taking place. They were not sure, it was reported, whether white civilians would attack them in the camp area.

Reports from Camp Claiborne claim that it is dangerous for Negro soldiers to walk even on camp grounds without being molested by white civilians.

War Dept. Probes Two Army Riots

WASHINGTON--Truman.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md. 8-26-44

War Dept. Probes Two Army Riots

WASHINGTON--Truman K. Gibson, civilian aide to the Secretary of War, told the AFRO Tuesday that reports of the slaying of four colored soldiers during a riot Thursday at Camp Calaiborne La., were "very likely untrue" but that an Inspector General's report of the trouble in the Camp Polk-Livingston-Claiborne and had been requested by the War Department.

Gibson admitted, however, that a colored soldier had been slain by a military policeman at Camp Livingston August 16, where, accofding to preliminary reports, he had attempted to use an Army truck without permission.

RUMOR SOLDIER KILLED

A report of the affair received by the NAACP from the Camp Caiborne Public Relations Office said that three colored soldiers and a white lieutenant had been injured during a riot which broke out following "rumors that a colored soldier had been killed."

The Claiborne report further stated that the disturbance had taken place at the Army Service Forces Training Center at Claiborne and that "many colored soldiers were armed with rifles obtained when their arms racks were broken into and that several shots were fired in the vicinity of the service camp."

A colored soldier was treated at the station hospital for bullet wounds and a white lieutenant was treated for bruises and lacerations of the face and body.

An undisclosed number of arrests were made and a "thorough investigation is now under way," according to the report.

Unofficial reports from the camp stated that white civilians had been involved in the affair and every colored soldier who left the camp area was halted whether on or off duty.

8-26-44

No Word in 4 Days

Mr. Gibson said that he didn't believe that the reports of the "civilians' seige" were true and that while the War Department has received no word from the area in the past four days he understands that the situation has quieted down.

Further action by the War Department awaits receipt of the report from the Inspector General's office. Another investigation is being conducted by the NAACP.

61-1944

Missouri

Race Riot Rumors Prove Unfounded

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.
7-29-44

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — (ANP) — 'Push day," icepick rumors and the report which fixed a day for a general race conflict are without basis of fact, come from uninformed sources and appear to be "the work of enemy agents," members of the St. Louis Race Relations commission agreed last week at a meeting in Civil Courts building.

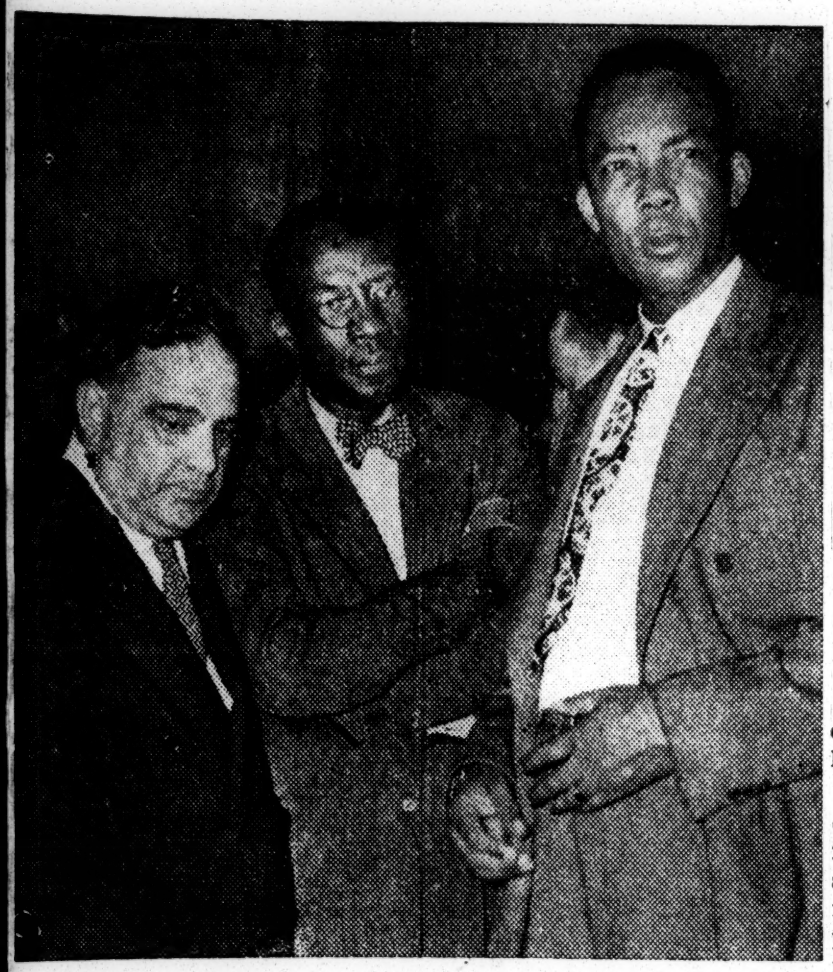
The rumors, according to Edwin B. Moissner, manufacturer and acting police board head were repeated in many telephone calls to the police and to newspaper officers.

Robert B. Legsdon, president of the CIO Industrial Union council, principal speaker at the meeting, said that labor organizations wished to avoid a re-occurrence of such disturbances as those in Detroit last year.

"Push day," is described as an act of Negroes jostling white persons off the sidewalk. Another report was that the Red Cross was warning people to stay off the streets on a certain day, the day of a race conflict. Contact with Red Cross officials revealed that the rumor had no foundation.

New York

AT TROUBLE SCENE



Mayor La Guardia, Max Yergan, National Negro Congress leader, and Ferdinand Smith, National Maritime Union leader, above left to right, are shown as they conferred in Harlem last August during the so-called "riots" in that Negro community. 1-9-44

What Has Been Done With These Proposals?

The Worker - New York, N.y. 1-9-44

A number of mass meetings and conferences followed the outbreak in Harlem on Aug. 1, 1943. The most significant of them was the Citizens Emergency Conference for Interracial Unity, Hunter College, Sept. 25, at which these "suggestions for immediate action" were made:

1. **Appointment of an interracial committee by the Mayor to further cooperation and harmony among all elements of the population.**

2. **Negro appointees on all municipal policy-making bodies concerned with education, health, police protection and other community services.**

3. **Equal employment opportunities for all men and women, regardless of race, creed or color.**

4. **Full protection of consumer interests in Harlem and other low income areas of the city.**

5. **A public market for central Harlem.**

6. **Unrestricted and rent-controlled private housing and non-segregated public housing accommodations for Negroes in metropolitan New York.** 1-9-44

7. **Abrogation of the present agreement of the City of New York with hte Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. concerning Stuyvesant Town, unless guarantees of non-discrimination are given.**

8. **Adequate health, education, and child-welfare services to meet community needs.**

9. **Federal action to end segregation and discrimination in the armed forces and Allied services.**

10. **Federal action against fifth-column organizations and activities which instigate racial and religious antagonism.**

11. **Passage of the Anti-Poll Tax Bill in the United States Senate in 1943.**

Causes of August 'Riots' Still Here

The Worker - New York, N.Y. 1-9-44

By Eugene Gordon

(First of a Series)

It is now five months since the City of New York, dazed and shocked, awoke one morning to find a part of itself bleeding from self-inflicted wounds. Scores of persons on the Sunday night before, believing rumors that a policeman had killed a Negro soldier, had engaged in a night-long outbreak in remembrance of countless injustices.

Committees of Negro and white citizens, springing spontaneously into action, probed and surveyed, and, then, reported. Their findings, in general, were that the Negro people's justifiable grievances were rooted in social maladjustment. The committees recommended that in order to prevent a recurrence of the outbreak the injustice be removed. 1-9-44

It was nearly two months later—Sept. 25, at Hunter College—that the first detailed report, with detailed recommendations, was made. This report came from the Citizens Emergency Conference for Interracial Unity, initiators of which were Marian Anderson, the contralto; Councilman Stanley M. Isaacs; Joseph Curran, president of the National Maritime Union; Dr. Channing H. Tobias, and Dr. Stephen S. Wise.

An excerpt from a statement by the Conference's resolutions committee said:

PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE

"We have attempted to find answers to the following questions: how to provide equal opportunities for all men and women to do the work for which they are qualified, and to share in the educational, medical and other services of the community according to their need; how to prevent the economic exploitation which goes hand in hand with segregation, and how to break down that segregation itself; how to end jim-crowism and discrimination again Negroes and other minorities in the armed forces, one of the main sources of racial disunity and conflict in the country today; and, finally, how to cope with fifth-column forces and their friends who do Hitler's work of sowing division and conflict among Americans—work made easy by the continued toleration, even at this critical hour, of these disruptive agents as well as of the disruptive practices of social discrimination and segregation."

The statement added that "the disruptive social factors" mentioned must be removed, if a "better and more democratic world" was to be achieved, and that "The time for the abolition of discrimination and segregation is NOW," for not only can we not **"afford** to postpone action" but "There is no need to postpone action," because "The facts are known to those whose responsibility it is to act."

The question we ask: **What action or actions have been taken, "by those whose responsibility it is to act," to prevent a recurrence of the Harlem outbreak in the five months since Aug. 1?** 1-9-44

WHAT WAS PROPOSED

The Citizens Emergency Conference for Interracial Unity accompanied its report with a series of "suggestions for immediate action by individuals, churches, neighborhood groups, trade unions, and other organizations." These are printed in the accompanying box.

To what extent have these suggestions been acted upon by "those whose responsibility it is to act"?

That question, put by the **Worker** and the **Daily Worker** to organization leaders who did most to restore order during those fateful days, and who did most to prevent a recurrence, have given their opinions of what has been done. Their answers appear in this and in succeeding articles. (The names of these men and women are published in the accompanying box.)

Some of these Harlem community leaders say they have no information whether or not the Mayor intends to appoint, or has actually appointed, an interracial committee "to further cooperation and harmony among all elements of the population."

Mr. Collier, of the Citywide Citizens Committee, hinted that Mr. LaGuardia recently received a delegation of citizens on that matter and promised it to appoint such a committee. Mr. Lewis, of the Urban League, commented to the same effect.

Mr. Marshall, of the NAACP, however, and Miss Gaulden, said they wanted to see that suggestion materialize in action.

Regarding Point 2, most of those interviewed had not heard of any Negro appointees "on all municipal policy-making bodies concerned with education, health, police protection and other community services." Mr. Strong, of the National Negro Congress, averred that a Negro could have been appointed to the Board of Education in the Bronx but that, instead, a business man got the post. Mr. Collier said:

SOME NEGRO APPOINTEES

"The Citywide Citizens Committee on Harlem has formally asked the Mayor to appoint a Negro to the Board of Education. Some Negro student nurses have been appointed to Bellevue Hospital. As to Negroes on municipal policy-making bodies—well, there is Francis Turner, on the administrative staff of the Superintendent of Schools, and the first assistant principal in the Samuel Tilden High School, Brooklyn, is a Negro. Dr. Oma Price is on the administrative staff of the Department of Hospitals, while Dr. Samuel A. Gittens has been appointed head of a clinic in Brooklyn." 1-9-44

Some Negro doctors he said, had been appointed to staffs of municipal hospitals elsewhere than Harlem, and he named Dr. Myra Logan, assistant visiting surgeon at the Cancer Hospital, and Dr Jerome Peterson, Seaview Hospital as among the appointees. Mr. Collier conceded that these appointments, in most cases, came before the Harlem outbreak. He could recall no Negroes having been made a member of a municipal policy-making body as a result of the Conference's request.

Those Interviewed

The following leaders in the Harlem community were interviewed for this series: Clifford L. Alexander, Urban Housing Management Association; Chas. A. Collier, Citywide Citizens Committee on Harlem; Charles Donellan Phillips, Consolidated Negro Labor Victory Committee; Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr.; Joseph Ford, Peoples Committee; Rose Gaulden, Upper Harlem Section, Communist Party; Dr. Jacob Goldman, Harlem Hospital; Edward Lewis, New York Urban League; Thurgood Marshall, legal staff, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Donellan Phillips, Consolidated Tenants League; Cecelia Saunders; Edward Strong, National Negro Congress.

Tenants League; A. Philip Randolph, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Cecelia Saunders; Edward Strong, National Negro Congress.

50 Brooklyn Schoolgirls Mix In Race Riot

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky
5-12-44

Police Quell Fight Lasting Half Hour

New York, May 11 (AP)—Police reported that twenty-five white and twenty-five Negro girls fought for almost half an hour in the cafeteria of Brooklyn Girls' High School today and that four pupils were injured, one seriously.

Rose Gallop, 16, Negro, was arrested on a charge of third degree assault on complaint of Albert Levine, white teacher, who said she assaulted him when he told her to stay in line just prior to the disturbance.

Police told this story:

White girls, defending the teacher's action, and Negro pupils, taking the Gallop girl's side, argued and then fought with chairs, dishes, fists and fingernails as weapons. 5-12-44

Edna Farnsworth, principal, and Alice Garvey, her assistant, attempted unsuccessfully to restore order, then called police.

Fifteen uniformed policemen and ten detectives responded and quelled the disturbance.

The injured were treated and sent home.

Youth Clashes Agitate Harlem, Navy Yard Zone

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

NEW YORK, June 10.—(INS) Reinforced police patrols were assigned t oHarlem and the Navy Yard section of Brooklyn today following a series of clashes between Negro and white youths.

A number of sailors took part in a pitched battle late Friday night between roving groups of whites and Negroes in Fort Greene park near the Navy Yard. The participants were dispersed only after emergency police squads fired warning shots over their heads. Some 160 extra policemen were assigned to this area alone after the brawl. 6-19-44

Earlier, a railroad policeman in civilian clothes, who accidentally jostled a Negro in a Manhattan subway station, was pounced on by several other Negroes and stabbed in the neck.

The increased police details in Harlem, the city's biggest Negro section, were assigned as a precautionary measure.

RIOT INEVITABLE

Age—New York, N.Y.

Reader of The New York Age and other newspapers probably were shocked last week when they read headlined stories that a third Harlem riot is inevitable. Authority for the story was Dr. Lawrence D. Reddick, co-chairman of the education committee of the Harlem City-Wide Citizens' Committee and curator of the Schomburg Collection of the New York Public Library. 6-10-44

The learned Dr. Reddick is not known to go off "half-cocked" and when he makes a statement for publication is reasonably certain he is on sure ground. For Dr. Reddick, then, to say that a third riot in Harlem is inevitable unless conditions are changed, is a statement not to be taken too lightly.

Going into the background of the first and second riots, Dr. Reddick and his co-workers have found that the same conditions which were responsible for the outbreaks are still existing. Recommendations made as result of the two riots have still just remained recommmendations with no attempt on the part of anyone to do anything about it.

"Some of the recommendations," says Dr. Reddick, "which should have been followed out before the first riot, after that, and, before the second riot, may be followed out now, before the third riot. These include:

"1. A serious drive to eliminate economic and employment discrimination . The city administration should take the lead here by first wiping out discrimination within its own ranks and inserting non-discrimination clauses in all municipal contracts with firms and labor unions. 6-10-44

"2. That the New York Housing Authority be empowered and financially supported in working out a housing program for Harlem. Dwellings unfit for habitation should be condemned.

"3. That the Board of Education initiate a real program of democratic education—and stop going through the motions. The present intercultural courses touch only a fraction of the teachers; widely used textbooks slander the Negro and other minority groups; school facilities, though improved greatly since the first riot, are still inadequate and inadequately utilized."

Now all of these recommendations are not impossible ones, nor do they require expenditures which would throw any city budget out of adjustment. If city officials are concerned about the problem and worried about the possibility of a third riot, they should, and must, get busy immediately to forestall another catastrophe. Negroes are tired of being the subjects of constant surveys and studies. They want action. It should not take a riot to get action. 6-10-44

If a third riot is inevitable, as Dr. Reddick believes it is, then the city administration must spring into immediate action to head it off. Mere police precautions will not do the trick. Action on the recommendations listed above will. That is the challenge. We hope that the Mayor must not learn the facts of Harlem the hard way when there is a much simpler, more pleasant, more effective way.

12 Victims Of 1941 Excursion Boat Riot Win $20,160 Damages; Verdict Handed Down By Jury Against City

Age—New York, N.Y.
6-17-44

Twelve victims of the riot which took the lives of three women and injured 62 persons on the city-owned West 132nd street pier on August 17, 1941, won awards totaling $20,160 in Supreme Court, Monday, in verdicts against the City of New York.

The riot occurred when some 5,000 Negroes attempted to board a Wilson Line excursion boat which could accommodate only 3,000. As the passengers were boarding the boat, officials of the Eureka Lodge of the GUO of OF discovered that some of the tickets were counterfeit and held up the on-coming passengers to more closely scrutinize their tickets. In the confusion that followed there was a stampede which ended in three women being trampled to death and 62 persons injured.

Following a five-day trial before Justice Lloyd Church, a jury awarded $8,000 to the estate of Mrs. Martha Murrain and $10,500 to the estate of Mrs. Rose Grant, both of whom were trampled to death.

The jury also awarded $50 to John Farrel, $100; $100 to Theresa Moodie; $150 to Agatha Edmead; $250 each to Ida Jackson, Hattie Gooden and Irene Woodcock; $60 to Billie Mae Robinson; $200 to Isabel Slater; $300 to Annie Riley; and $50 to Beatrice Brown. 6-17-44

A suit against the Wilson Line and the Eureka Lodge was brought by the estate of Mrs. Miriam Warrell, the third woman trampled to death, and was tried before Justice Kenneth O'Brien six weeks ago, but after four days trial the suit was dismissed.

61-1944

North Carolina

Soldier Riot Nipped in N.C.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
2-19-44

BY A. BROWER,
Staff Correspondent

ASHEVILLE, N.C.—A pitched battle between military and civilian police and soldiers of the 388th Engineer Corps, Camp Sutton, was narrowly averted here last Monday night.

The outfit was in bivouac overnight while enroute to its post from a month's maneuvers near Fontana Dam in the Great Smoky Mountains.

The near-riot occurred when nearly 600 members of the unit threatened to storm the city jail to rescue a companion who had been arrested after being wantonly clubbed by a white MP.

Cops Heavily Armed

City police were armed with riot guns and tear gas, and a guard detail of white troops, equipped with machine guns, were caled from nearby Moore General Hospital.

The soldiers abandoned their plan only after being assured that their buddy would be released and persuasive talking had been made by white officers of the unit and A. C. Mitchell, civic leader. 2-19-44

Mr. Mitchell and the officers went among the enraged soldiers urging them to restrain from any rash acts until proper authorities could straighten out the matter.

Minor Injuries Reported

In isolated skirmishes between police and the soldiers, two white MP's, a city policeman and five soldiers were injured, but none seriously.

Meanwhile, the unit, including the arrested soldier and the injured, moved to Camp Sutton the following day.

Damage Report Exaggerated

Accounts carried by the daily press—particularly the Associated Press—said that the soldiers wrecked the business section of Eagle Street, main colored thoroughfare, but this is entirely erroneous.

AFRO representatives, arriving after the incident; found no trace of any wholesale destruction. An intensive investigation revealed that the damage was confined to one broken window in the Palace Grill, where part of the disturbance is said to have originated.

The white press also reported that soldiers "consumed lot of food and drink that they did not pa yfor," but merchants in the area declared that they suffered no such losses.

Traced to Theft Report

According to eye witnesses, one of the soldiers reported that a civilian had stolen money from him in the Grill and ordered the police called.

Before civilian officers arrived, three MP's reached the scene, determined that the civilian was at fault and promised to send in city officers.

On their way back to headquarters, a block away, they attempted to arrest Pvt. Clarence Fuller. When he resisted, according to eye witnesses, one of the three MP's summored a fourth, who allegedly slugged the soldier over the head with his night club.

Weapons Sought

This enraged other soldiers, civilians said, and many were reported to have returned to the Carolino Warehouse, three blocks away where they were encamping, to get arms. 2-19-44

Meanwhile, word spread that the soldiers were rioting, but neither city police nor the troops entered the trouble area which was blocked off from all traffic.

The soldiers milled about for more than a half hour, shouting and hurling imprecations, until officers arrived to help quell the disturbance.

Police Cautioned

Police Chief C. W. Dermid told the AFRO that he armed his men solely to protect civilians and property and said that they were ordered not to enter the vicinity of the disturbance unless there was shooting.

He said that he blamed the soldiers' officers for taking prompt action to bring their men under control.

A spokesman from the provost marshal's headquarters of the Army Air Forces quartered here said that although troops had encamped in the city before, this was the first time trouble had arisen.

Clubbing Not Admitted

Neither he nor Chief Dermid would admit that Private Fuller was clubbed by the MP.

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Prior to their arrival, the engineers were reported to have had trouble in Bryson City, sever y miles from here, but the Army spokesman would not confirm this report.

The soldiers had been doing construction work while on maneuvers, and their freedom in Asheville was their first liberty since going to the Smoky Mountains, he said.

court costs.

The rioters used knives, stones, lumps of coal and other weapons in the free-for-all fight which started on Fountain's main street after a Negro woman and a white man developed trouble between themselves. The disputes were broken up by highway patrolmen.

Convicted Rioters In North Carolina Include One Negro

Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y.
11-25-44

GREENVILLE, N. C. (ANP)—Superior court Wednesday settled the case of nine whites and a Negro who were numbered among the 35 persons who started a near-riot at Fountain last June. All were convicted of disorderly conduct and assault, one of the men was sentenced to a year on the roads, while the others including Ernest Knight, Negro, were given suspended terms ranging from six months to two years each. Each defendant was taxed with his proportionate part of

61-1944

Pennsylvania

Race Rioting Flares In Philadelphia Strike Of Transport Workers

8-2-44

More Than 27,000 Idle Throughout Nation On Account Labor Troubles

By The Associated Press

Labor unrest keeping more than 27,000 workers from their jobs throughout the nation Wednesday produced racial violence in Philadelphia, where the public transportation system was completely tied up.

(In Washington, the War Labor Board called an extraordinary meeting at 11 a.m. to discuss the Philadelphia situation with officials of the Philadelphia Regional Office. Attending from that office were Silvester Garrett and Eli Rock.)

Police cars raced from one conflict between Negroes and white men to another in Philadelphia Tuesday night. Windows in stores and houses were smashed. Broken milk bottles hurled at vehicles littered one seven-block section.

At least 10 persons were hurt, one critically.

* * *

JOHN YOUNG, 39, WAS DRAGGED from his automobile and beaten unconscious with a brick in a heavily populated Negro district. 8-2-44

Young, the police report added, had stopped his automobile after Negroes showered it with coal.

Six thousand trolley, bus and subway employes were idle. The riding public, 1,500,000 strong daily, was discommoded. War production was retarded. The workers booed union officers who begged them to return to work.

* * *

THE NAVY ESTIMATED THAT production in this area was reduced by 70 per cent; the Army, 50 per cent. Thousands of employes of the huge Philadelphia Navy Yard were unable to report for work.

The Army sent 50 trucks from Ft. Dix, N. J., to help provide transportation for its war workers Wednesday, but there was no immediate move by the Army to take over the public vehicles.

Mayor Bernard Samuel said shortly before midnight Tuesday night that "nothing effective can be done locally" and that the dispute would be certified to the National Labor Relations Board. He issued his statement after conferring with representatives of the CIO, the War Labor Board, the Fair Employment Practices Committee, and the War Manpower Commission. 8-2-44

Should the NLRB be unable to effect a settlement, the White House would have power to act.

* * *

PHILADELPHIA'S TROUBLE DEVELOPED, the company said, as a protest over hiring Negroes, but the CIO Transport Workers Union claimed it was instigated by enemy agents aiming to incite race riots.

A new dispute idling 4,000 employes of the Kelsey-Hayes Wheel Company developed in Detroit. A United Automobile Workers (CIO) spokesman attributed stoppage to a lockout he said resulted after many employes failed to appear for a suddenly advanced starting hour. No company official could be reached for comment.

Meanwhile, the UAW executive board acted in Milwaukee to end a strike of 7,000 employes in five Detroit plants of General Motors' Chevrolet gear and axle division. The board designated Melvin Bishop, union regional director, as administrator of Local 235, with which the strikers are affiliated.

Two Detroit area labor disputes ended with return to work of 1,000 employed by the Stinson division of Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation, and with an agreement to reinstate a group of Montgomery Ward & Co. clerks dismissed for refusing to help with a Sunday inventory. The Ward dispute had threatened to close four stores. 8-2-44

* * *

A THREE-DAY STRIKE INVOLVING 4,300 at the General Steel Castings Company, Granite City, Ill., ended Tuesday, but began again almost at once when 300 Negro chippers walked out, again halting production work of the other 4,000.

Some 4,700 idle since last Friday at the Trenton and Roebling, N. J., plants of John A. Roebling's Sons & Co. were under WLB direction to return to work at once.

In Muncie, Ind., AFL glass bottle blowers of Ball Brothers Company voted Tuesday night to ignore a WLB order to return to work. Five hundred have been idle since July 23 in a jurisdictional dispute between the AFL group and the CIO Glass, Ceramic, Sand and Silica Workers. 8-2-44

At least 4,000 were idle in nine other disputes which remained unadjusted.

61-1944

South Carolina

21 Persons Are Arrested In Race Riot at Fountain

News + Observer — Raleigh, N.C.

6-19-44

Greenville, June 18.—Sheriff's officers and State highway patrolmen broke up a race riot on the main street of Fountain Saturday evening about 6 o'clock and arrested 21 alleged participants—10 white men and 11 Negroes.

The Greenville police patrol wagon and several cars were used to take the prisoners to the county jail here. They are charged with mutual assault with deadly weapons and inciting a race riot.

They were ordered held under $500 bond each. The white men and several Negroes provided bail, Sheriff Ruel W. Tyson stated.

Knives, rocks, sticks, coal and bottles were used by the rioters. One white man, William H. Jefferson, was cut severely on the face by a Negro. Jack Wilks, Negro, was stabbed in an arm and a leg. Many of the rioters were either beaten or cut.

6-19-44

Shotguns were beginning to make their appearance when sheriff's officers and the highway patrolmen under Lt. Lester Jones and a Greenville policeman arrived in Fountain in response to a call from Mayor Earl Tracathan, after Police Chief Oscar Bryan and Patrolman Walston realized they could not stop the riot.

There had been bad feeling between Negroes and whites in Fountain for the past week. An argument between a white man and a Negro started the row, then others took sides and in a short time the riot was approaching alarming proportions.

The rioters began to disperse when they heard the highway patrol car sirens. The officers made a record run from Greenville to Fountain.

Fountain citizens said their prompt arrival prevented serious trouble.

The 11 Negroes arrested are Jim Evans, Burk Evans, Ray Dock Evans, Luther Evans, Robert Lee Jones, Rom Moore, June Moore, Fred Dilda, Ernest Knight, Jack Wilks, and Allie May Evans, a woman.

6-19-44

Whites arrested are William S. Smith, William H. Jefferson, Robert Lee Jefferson, Albert Ellis Welton R. Beaman, Thomas P. Ellis, Bil Langley, Edgar Baker and Rufus A Moore.

The cases will be tried before Judge Dink James in Pitt County Recorder's Court on June 27.

Race Disturbance In South Carolina

Advertiser — Montgomery Ala

9-18-44

LAKE CITY, S. C., Sept. 16.—(U.P.)—Civil and military authorities today were investigating the cause of a race disturbance which broke out here last night in which six persons reportedly were injured.

W. L. Price, chief of police at Lake City, said three white persons and three negroes were injured in the disturbance in which the negroes used knives and the white combatants used guns. Price said the cause of the altercation was not known.

The state guard and military police were called out to quell the battle.

According to Price, a negro sailor was shot, and the three white men suffered knife wounds, but none of the injuries were serious. The extent of the injuries suffered by the other two was not known.

9-18-44

Sheriff McLaurin Burch of Florence County, S. C., and the provost marshall's office at the Florence Army Air Base were investigating the matter today.

Sailor Shot In S. C. Riot

Call—Kansas City, Mo.

Disturbance Cause Unknown

9-22-44

LAKE CITY, S. C.—(ANP)—Peace was restored Saturday after three hours of rioting between white and colored citizens here around midnight. One Negro sailor was shot and taken to the Florence air base hospital.

A tobacco center, the Florence unit of the South Carolina home guard patrolled the trouble area and ordered all civilians and sailors off the streets. O. S. Baldwin, local magistrate, said that more than 100 persons were involved in the rioting.

Neither the name of the injured sailor nor the cause of the rioting was learned.

Many Hurt in Riot in S.C. Town

Afro American Baltimore, Md.

LAKE CITY, S.C.—Many persons were hurt and buildings damaged when a white mob descended on the colored section of this town Saturday as a result of the rumor that a white woman had been jostled by a colored man.

9-30-44

The rumor is said to have been circulated following a street fight in which a colored man allegedly got the better of his white opponent. Military and the home guards had to be called in to restore order.

Sailor Seriously Hurt

Aside from a few bruises, no violence was reported on colored women and children, but Monday many battered and bruised heads of both colored and white men were to be seen.

Most seriously wounded was a colored sailor, Oscar Bar, who was reported to be home on his first furlough, was shot twice as he stepped out of a barbershop. He was reported in a critical condition in a Charleston hospital Monday.

9-30-44

Windows Smashed

Another sailor, John A. Cooper, also home on furlough, was badly beaten about the head. Cooper's foster father, Jack Cooper, a cafe proprietor, had the front door of his establishment broken down and two windows smashed.

The Rev. A. R. German, another cafe owner, had two window panes broken, although it was closed at the time. Authorities were reported Monday as trying to investigate the incident.

Rioters Were Not Residents, Claims S. Carolina Town

Journal + Guide—Norfolk, Va.

10-14-44

FLORENCE, S. C.—(ANP)—Negro leaders here who had conducted an investigation into the race riot in Lake City in this county last month, reported that Lake City officials, who have been trying to determine the origin of the debacle, felt white men from Williamsburg county, a few miles away, and who did their weekend buying in the town, were responsible for the riot.

NEGROES RELEASED

One official, the rep said, remarked: "We don't have those kind of white men in Florence county." This man said that all 10 of the white men arrested in connection with the flareup were residents of Williamsburg county. Eleven Negroes were arrested, but all were released without charges.

10-14-44

Negro residents were inclined to accept reservedly the statement that the men responsible for the outbreak were not residents of Lake City. As one put it: "Te men couldn't lick the police department, tie up the city, and compel home guards and military police to come in."

61¢-1944

S. C.

Mob Spreads Terror In Lake City Site

World — Memphis, Tenn.

9-26-44

By Staff Correspondent

LAKE CITY, S. C. — A street fight between a colored and white man and a wild rumor combined here late Saturday night to throw this quiet little town into a five hour inferno of redeo and random shooting, ending only after Home Guards, MPs and other outside law officers took over the town, local police having been forced to yield after thte situation proved far too powerful for them to handle. Monday, many of both races sported bruised and cut heads and other injuries.

The disorder began about nine thirty when a white man and a colored man fought it out on Mair street, the colored man getting the better of the battle. In the excitement caused by the fight, leaders say, it is possible that a white woman may have been jostled by a colored man as a crowd collected, however, the general belief is that the defeated man, or sympathizers, circulated the rumor as vengeance or as a joke. Whatever the purpose, a short time later several contingents of white men, armed with rifles, shotguns, pistols blackjacks and an assortment of weapons, descended on late colored shoppers on Main street, spread around to the colored business section and within short order had full control of the city. 9-26-44

COLORED MEN UNARMED

The groups caught the colored men flatfooted, the latter having forgotten the street fight and having not heard of the rumor. As reckless shooting began many of them, leaving their wives and children, ran from the areas. Farmers who had come to town for their weekly shopping, began hustling families out of Lake City. Every car was stopped by the mobsters and usually the men would jump out and run while a few random shots were taken at them.

SAILOR, SOLDIER WOUNDED

Aside from a few bruises no violences were reported on colored women and children but Monday many battered and bruised heads of both colored and white men were to be seen. Most seriously from the Navy. He was set upon just as he stepped out of a barbershop on Saul street, his head pummeled and was shot twice, observers say, once in the leg and in the head. Monday, he was reported in a critical condition in a Charleston hospital. 9-26-44

A colored soldier, John A. Cooper also home on furlough, was badly beaten about the head by the mobsters and wore a bandaged head Monday. Cooper's foster father, Jack Cooper, a cafe proprietor on Saul street, had the front door of his establishment broken down and two windows smashed. The Rev A. R. German, another cafe owner on the same street, had two windows smashed and a scheen door torn away Jack Cain's cafe was shot into and window panes broken, although it was closed at the time.

Over on Knight street, another colored section, similar atrocities were committed. A man known only as "Slim," observers say, had an arm bayoneted by Home Guardsmen whom leaders accuse of a number of unneccesary atrocities. A man by the name of Walters was beaten over the head with the butt of a pistol and many homes and business places were marks of stray bullets fired from over on Main and Saul streets.

9-26-44

Authorities were reported Monday as trying to investigate the incident which, both races agree, was spirited by certain whites, victims of the woman-jostling rumor.

Wounded was a colored sailor, Oscar Barr, son of Solomon Barr and who was home on his first furlough

61-1944

Washington

Court Martial Probes Facts in Riot at Fort Lawton, Wash.

By ELLEN McGRATH

FORT LAWTON, Wash., Nov. 24.—The trial of 43 Negro enlisted men before a military court is now under way here and proceeding in an atmosphere of calm deliberation to ascertain the reasons behind the fight shortly after taps on the night of Aug. 14.

Three of the accused are on trial for their lives, charged with murder in the unexplained death of an Italian soldier, Guglielmo Olivotto, former prisoner of war who was a member of a service unit.

The fracas was described as a free-for-all fight in which a number were injured.

The following day and over a mile away from the scene, the body of Olivotto was found hanging from a wire over a gulley. The dead man's shoes were found on a bluff several hundred feet from the bod At that time military authorities said they were investigating the possibility of suicide. Connection between the death and the fracas at the company's barracks remains to be proven.

The trial opened on Nov. 16. Major William T. Beeks, defense attorney, and Lt. Col. Jaworski, trial judge advocate (prosecutor), both exercised their one preemtory challenge. The court as constituted consists of nine officers ranging in rank from captain to colonel.

It is unfortunate that no Negro commissioned officer is on the court to help determine the fate of the 43 Negro soldiers.

Major Beeks dealt at length in questioning on any "conscious or unconscious" race prejudice. The questioning was said to be "unusual" but was allowed. Major Beeks made it clear, however, that he was not impugning the good faith of any of the officers but was seeking through searching questions to ascertain possible prejudice.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

The case has aroused many unanswered questions. For instance, the association between the Negro and Italian service men was declared to be excellent prior to the outbreak, which was described as a well-planned attack by the Negroes upon the Italian service unit's barracks nearby.

Following the riot two companies of Negro soldiers were sent overseas. A number were brought back from the South Pacific to stand trial. In the interim several have been promoted to the rank of sergeant or corporal.

The rigid military regulations on this Fort were lifted on orders of Secretary of War Stimson, permitting the press and interested groups to appear as spectators.

John Caughlan, Seattle attorney, is sitting in as legal observer representing the International Labor Defense and the Council of Minority Rights.

The three soldiers who face a possible death penalty in event of conviction for murder are Corp. Luther Larkin, 23, Helena, Ark.; Sgt. Arthur J. Hurks, 23, Houston, Texas; and Pvt. William G. Jones, 21, Decatur, Ill.

One of the questions which may be answered in the trial is of possible attempts by provocateurs to create division between Negroes and whites by capitalizing on the discrimination against Negroes, which is a potential threat to welding unity for victory in the war.

ARMY TO TRY 43 NEGROES IN RAID ON PRISON CAMP

Seattle, Wash., Nov. 6 (AP).—Forty-three Negro soldiers will be tried before a court martial at Fort Lawton, the army announced today, as the outgrowth of a raid on quarters of an Italian prisoner unit Aug. 14 and the death of an Italian private. Three are charged with murder and rioting and the others are charged with rioting. The date of the trial was not announced.

The body of an Italian soldier was found hanging from a guy wire after a group of Negro soldiers raided quarters of the 28th Italian quartermaster service unit at the fort.

27 Negro GIs Get Sentences In Riot Case

25 Years Is Highest Penalty in Court Martial Over Italian POW Fight

Special Correspondence

FORT LAWTON, Wash., Dec. 20.—Sentences ranging from six months to 25 years in prison were imposed on 27 Negro soldiers as a nine-officer court martial concluded the trial of 43 GIs in connection with the riot Aug. 14 when a former Italian war prisoner was hanged and 30 other Italians were injured.

During the five-week trial, two men were freed by the prosecution; 13 were found not guilty and 28 were convicted. The sentence of one man, presently in a hospital with pneumonia, was not made public.

The stiffest penalty, 25 years, went to Cpl. Luther Larkin, 23, of Helena, Ark., one of three convicted of manslaughter in the death of Guglielomo Olivotto. A wearer of the Army good conduct medal, Cpl. Larkin had volunteered for a medical unit in order to get overseas duty. Except for one case, all sentences carried forfeiture of pay and allowances and dishonorable discharges.

In typical Army style, defendants were escorted into the make-shift courtroom one by one. Each man walked smartly to the dais, saluted the court and stood stiffly as sentence was read. Then, he executed an about-face and marched from the room.

In the spectators' section, Mrs. Sadie Hughes, of Chicago, wept as her son, Pvt. Robert Sanders, 21, was sentenced to eight years, and Mrs. Richard Barber, also of Chicago, burst into tears as her husband, Pvt. Richard Barber, 22, was sentenced to 10 years.

Under Army law, all of the cases are automatically appealed to the Judge Advocate General's office which can lessen but not increase penalties. This office also can order the men to confinement camps from which they can rehabilitate themselves back into active service and thus be spared the shame of dishonorable discharge.

Soldiers Given 200 Year Term

Army's Largest Court Martial Sentences 27; Frees 14, One Waits

SEATTLE, Wash., (Special)—27 soldiers were given prison sentences totaling more than 200 years here Monday in the army's largest court martial of this war. The sentences grew out of the trial of 41 negro G. I.'s charged with rioting against an Italian Service unit at Ft. Lawton on August 14th which ended in the murder-hanging of Private Guglielmo Olivotto.

There were originally 42 defendants in the trial. One was dismissed early in the case, leaving 41, of which 13 were found not guilty at the end of the trial; and one, Pvt. Roy L. Montgomery, of Greenwood, Mississippi, who is in a hospital with pneumonia, will be sentenced later. With but one exception the convicted men sentenced are subject to dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of all pay in addition to the prison terms. Cpl. Riley L. Buckner, of Houston, Tex., sentenced to six months at hard labor and forfeiture of two-thirds of his pay for the period, is the exception.

The following three defendants were cleared of murder charges, but were convicted of rioting and received the heaviest sentences assessed by the court: Cpl. Luther Larkin, of Helena, Arkansas, 25 year in prison; Pvt. William G. Jones, of Decatur, Illinois, 15 years; and Sgt. Arthur J. Hurks, of Houston, Texas, 12 years.

SEATTLE, Wash., (ANP)—The acquittal last week of Pfc. Milton Bratton leaves only 41 Negro soldiers on trial here for murder and rioting against Italian prisoners of war at Fort Lawton last August.

Beside the acquittal of Pfc. Bratton, the court proceeded to thrash out evidence that the 42 men on trial were subjected to third degree punishment as a means of wringing signed confessions from them. The third degree charge was made by T/5 Willie Provost Sr., and Pvt. Samuel Snow, both defendants.

Third Degree Tactics

Provost accused Sgt. Ralph E. Young, attached to army intelligence of employing third degree tactics and was supported by 19-year-old Pvt. Snow. Young, one of the army's investigators, "pulled off his coat and said he had a good mind to sock me if I didn't tell the truth," Snow declared, but his testimony was overruled by Lt. Col. Gerald W. O'Connor.

"There has been offered some testimony that certain threats were made to the accused Sept. 5; that duress was practiced by certain persons and that acts frowned upon by the constitution, the civil courts and military courts as well were practiced on the accused, as a result of which he was forced to submit to questioning," said O'Connor. "The preponderance of the evidence establishes as a fact, and I so find, that no such duress was used and no such improper or illegal acts were committed."

A local newspaper man, who has attended the various sessions of the court martial proceedings observed that the real issues of the trial involving the 42 Negro soldiers have not been brought out.

The Real Issues

"We wonder if the real evidence leading up to the fight between the Negro soldiers and the Italians, former prisoners of war, will be allowed to enter this trial?" he declared. "Or would this implicate our government and the heads of our army? It's one hell of a mess if you ask me."

Both Maj. William T. Beeks, defense counsel, and Lt. Col. Jaworski, for the prosecution are working hard, he said. Maj. Beeks, he pointed out, is somewhat handicapped by the limited time given him in preparation for the defense of the army's most unusual trials. Yet with this handicap, Beeks is successfully making the court members sit up and take notice, he said.

Negro Rioters Given Stiff Sentences By U.S.

SEATTLE, Wash.—(AP)—The largest mass court-martial of this war has given sentences totalling more than 200 years to 27 Negro soldiers found guilty of rioting.

The Negroes took part in a wild, rioting attack on an Italian service unit at Ft. Lawton, Aug. 14.

The morning after the riot the body of one of the Italians, Pvt. Guglielmo Olivotto, was found hanging in a nearby gully.

Three of the Negroes had been charged with murder, but this was reduced to manslaughter for two of them, Corp. Luther Larkin, 23, sentenced Monday, one was dishonored, given a 25-year sentence, and Pvt. William G. Jones, found innocent, and one, Pfc. Roy L. Montgomery, 23, Greenwood, Miss., sentenced to 15L. The third Sgt. Arthur J. Hurks, 22, Houston, Tex., was convicted of rioting only, and was given a 12-year sentence. These were the heaviest sentences, which ranged all the way down to six months at hard labor.

In addition to the 27 Negroes

Negro GIs' Trial Bares Victim as a Psychopath

With Lynching Yet Links No Evidence Accused Men

Special Correspondence

FORT LAWTON, Wash., Dec.

...s.—Only two undisputed facts are apparent in the welter of testimony offered in the trial of the 41 Negro soldiers here charged with rioting:

¶ After taps on Aug. 14 an undetermined number of Negro soldiers were called from their barracks by non-coms whose identities are in dispute, and led into a free-for-all fracas against Italian prisoners of war. Knives, clubs and stones sent more than a score of the Italians to the post hospital.

¶ Eight hours later, the body of Gugliomo Olivotto, one of the prisoners of war, was found hanging from a guy wire on the camp's obstacle course.

Lt. Col. Leon Jaworski, trial judge advocate, who is directing the prosecution, has introduced evidence which he claims shows that the Italian was lynched, but has not been able by direct evidence to link any of the accused with the hanging or place them near the obstacle course.

Face Murder Charge

Three of the accused face an additional charge of murder, which the prosecution bases on their identification as leaders of the rioting.

Maj. William Beeks, defending the Negroes, created a sensation at the trial by charging Olivotto was a suicide. He produced a letter written July 17 by the U. S. officer commanding the Italian service unit asking for a mental examination of Olivotto. Other witnesses, Italian and American, testified the dead man had a morbid fear of Negroes growing out of experiences with French Morrocan troops who captured him in North Africa.

The trio accused of the murder —Cpl. Luther Larkin, 23, of Helena, Ark.; Sgt. Arthur J. Hurks, 23, of Houston, Tex., and Pvt. William G. Jones, 21, of Decatur, Ill.—all deny participating in the fight. Larkin also denies "blowing the company out," with which he has been accused, and charges the troops were actually summoned by Sgt. Robert Gresham, a member of their company, who testified for the prosecution and identified a number of those accused of taking part in the fight.

Hurks testified that not only did he not lead the fighting, but that he kept other Negroes from participating.

Resented Contrast

Previous reports of good relations between the Negroes and the Italians prior to the fight was disputed by much of the evidence. It was well established that on the evening of the fracas two Negroes were badly beaten by the Italians and dumped near the barracks. This is considered the spark which set off the smouldering resentment of the Negroes to Jim Crow treatment on and off the post while newspapers carried stories of alleged pampering of the Italians by military authorities.

The prosecution and the nine-officer court, as well as defense counsel, appear to be bending over backward to assure the accused a fair trial. The defendants have been granted an additional delay to await witnesses being flown back from overseas to testify. Observers from Negro and other interested organizations are welcomed by officials, and are on hand daily in the makeshift courtroom.

Procedure

The procedure of the court is somewhat similar to that of a civil court, but under military law no hung jury is possible. One ballot is taken with a two-thirds vote required for conviction unless the penalty is more than 10 years, in which case a three-fourths vote is necessary.

Defendants not convicted are immediately freed to return to their units. All convictions automatically go to the Judge Advocate General on appeal and death sentences must receive the personal approval of the President.

Nineteen of the accused will not take the stand on their own behalf or take advantage of the unusual court martial procedure which permits them to make unsworn statements not subject to cross examination.

Two of those in the original group of 43 accused were dropped for lack of evidence against them. One defendant suffering from influenza was brought into the courtroom in a wheelchair and fear was expressed that the trial may be further delayed if the disease spreads to other defendants or members of the court.

Many of the defendants in this case are seasoned soldiers, some with as much as three years of service to their credit. Good conduct medals, non-com stripes and overseas ribbons are much in evidence.

27 Negro Soldiers Convicted Of Rioting And Given Long Prison Sentences At Big Court Martial

Age—New York, N.Y.

12-23-44

SEATTLE, Wash. — Prison sentences totaling more than 200 years were given Monday night to twenty-seven Negro soldiers found guilty by a United States Army General Court Martial board of rioting against an Italian service unit at Fort Lawton on August 14th.

The court martial, largest of the war, acquitted 13 other Negro soldiers of the rioting charge and found three of the defendants innocent of additional charges in the death of Pvt. Guglielmo Olivotto whose body was found hanging in a near-by gully the morning after the riot.

Those cleared of the murder charges, however, were convicted of rioting and their sentences were the heaviest given by the Court Martial board. They were Cpl Luther Larkin, 23, of Helena, Ark., twenty-five years in prison; Pvt. William G. Jones, 20, of Decatur, Ill., fifteen years; and Sgt. Arthur J. Hurks, 22, of Houston, Tex., 12 years.

With the exception of a single defendant, the convicted men were sentenced also to dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of all pay in addition to the prison terms. The exception was Cpl. Riley L. Buckner, 25, of Houston, Tex., who was sentenced to six months at hard labor and forfeiture of two-thirds of his pay for the period.

In addition to dishonorable discharge, loss of pay and confinement, the sentences carried reduction to the rank of private for all non-commissioned officers. They were originally 42 defendants in the trial. One was dismissed early in the trial, thirteen were found not guilty at the end of the trial, and one, Pfc. Roy L. Montgomery, 23, of Greenwood, Miss., is in the hospital with pneumonia. His sentence will be pronounced later when he is discharged from the hospital.

12-23-44

All sentences will be subjected to review by the Judge Advocate General's department, which can reduce but not increase the penalties. A two-thirds majority of the court was required to convict.

The riot began, it was charged, over resentment of Negro soldiers against privileges denied to them but extended to the Italian ex-prisoners of war.

Negro GIs Charge Coercion, In Court-Martial Testimony

By ELLEN McGRATH

FORT LAWTON, Wash., Dec. 11.—The prosecution has closed its case in the court-martial of 42 Negro soldiers without directly linking any one of the defendants with the unexplained death of Guglielmo Olivotto, former Italian prisoner of war and a member of a service unit, who was found hanging the day after a free-for-all had taken place between Negro and Italian soldiers soon after taps sounded on Aug 14.

A second accused, Pfc. Milton Bratton, 31, of Excelsior Springs, Mo., was exonerated by a motion of Lt. Col. John Jaworski, trial judge advocate, reducing the number to 41 on trial for rioting, with three charged with murder.

Maj. William Beeks, defense attorney, brought out charges that F J. Freeman, a civilian investigatotr for the Port of Embarkation, had threatened Willie Prevost, Sr., with lynch law of the South on Sept. 5 during investigation of the outbreak.

Freeman admitted under cross-examination by Major Beeks that he had served 10 years as an investigator for the district attorney in Texas.

Prevost also charged Lt. Col. Curtis L. Williams, assigned to the case from the inspector general's office in Washington, D. C., had tried to persuade him to add details to his testimony which were not true.

Lt. Col. Williams, who questioned Prevost 24 days after the alleged rope incident on Sept. 5, denied coercion. It was reported Williams is a former district attorney in Arkansas.

Prevost's confession, written in his own handwriting, was admitted in evidence by Lt. Col. Herald O'Connor, the law member of the court. He ruled out testimony elicited from Prevost on Sept. 5, the day of the alleged rope threat, because, he said, he was "not satisfied that he was warned on said day that any statement he might make would be used against him."

Lt. Col. O'Conner, in a written ruling, cleared the record of the charges of coercion. New charges, however, were made of duress against the Negro soldiers.

Pvt. Samuel Snow, 19, of Leesburg, Fla., testified that Freeman had threatened to "lay a murder rap" on him, and that he would never see his father or mother again and thrust him into solitary confinement when he refused to talk.

Prevost's statement, laboriously written, is a stark example of the discrimination practiced against Negroes in the South, which denies them ordinary education. And it reveals, too, the high tension running through the barracks when a report spread like wildfire that there was "a riot going on," and they ran down to help their buddies.

Provost admitted he had armed himself with a board, but there was no evidence that he had done anything but carry it with him. He identified others as participating in the riot, but the court ordered their names deleted and ruled the confession could incriminate only Prevost.

The Negroes before the general court-martial are from two companies with highly meritorious records. About half the accused were flown back from the Pacific war theater of operations and proudly wear their service ribbons.

Lack of understanding over the status of the Italian service units is a factor in this case. While relations between the Negroes and Italians were generally reported to be good, there was justifiable resentment that former prisoners of war appeared to be given better treatment than patriotic American soldiers.

It is unfortunate, too that officers from the South were permitted to handle this case.

61-1944

Washington

No Proof Shown in Court Martial of 14 Negroes

By ELLEN McGRATH

FORT LAWTON, Wash., Dec 3.—As the prosecution of the 42 Negro soldiers in as mass court martial nears a close, it is significant that not a trace of evidence has linked the accused with the mysterious death of a former Italian prisoner of war and member of a service unit.

Guglielmo Olivotto, member of the service unit, was found the next day hanging from a guy wire over a mile away from the barracks where the fracas occurred between Negro and Italian soldiers. At that time army officials announced they were investigating the possibility of suicide.

The number of defendants was reduced to 42 shortly after the prosecution opened its case when all charges against Pvt. John R. Brown of Mt. Vernon, N. Y. were dismissed on motion of Trial Judge Advocate Lt. Col. Leon Jaworski.

Three soldiers are on trial for their lives because of the unexplained death of Olivotto. They are Corporal Luther Larkin, 23, Helena Ark.; Sergeant Arthur J. Hurks, 23, Houston, Texas, and Private William G. Jones, 21, Decatur, Ill. The other 39 are charged with rioting following the free-for-all on the night of Aug. 14th.

One witness is a commissioned officer and several others are high ranking non-coms, and they were all brought up and schooled under the Mussolini regime and served in the fascist army.

There have been, too, reprisals by fascists against anti-fascists in Nazi prisoner of war camps and this cannot be overlooked in view of the complete failure to submit any evidence linking the Negroes with the death of Olivotto.

SOME NEGROES AIDED MP'S

Testimony also shows that some of the Negroes at the scene were helping to assist the military police in halting the commotion. Sgt. Robert Gresham in the company of Col. Richard King had heard a commotion at the Italian barracks after taps on the night of Aug. 14th and went down to investigate. Both are Negroes. They admittedly assisted the military police who arrived to quell the commotion. Sgt. Gresham identified 10 of the accused, but there was no testimony that they had not come from the same motive.

There was testimony that at least one Negro soldier was helping military police when the pair arrived.

There has apparently been no attempt made to ascertain whether provocateurs were at work.

STRETCHING THE LAW

In what appears to be dangerously stretching the law, the prosecution has indicated it will attempt to pin conviction on the three accused of murder on the grounds they were "ringleaders" in the outbreak and therefore responsible for the unexplained death!

Observers at the trial include Rabbi Arthur Zuckerman, Rev. L. R. Hayes, Charles Stokes, Negro attorney, and George W. Woods, representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; John Caughlan, attorney for the International Labor Defense and Council for Minority Rights; Wendell Norris, deputy sheriff; John E. Prim, Negro deputy prosecuting attorney and Columbus Honeysuckle.

Negro GIs Are Accused In Riot at Fort Lawton

Italian Says He Hit Soldier in Self-Defense

Special Correspondence

FORT LAWTON, Wash., Nov. 20.—Events leading up to the Aug. 14 riot when one former Italian soldier was killed and about 30 others injured were described yesterday at the opening of testimony in the court martial of 43 Negro soldiers, three of whom are charged with murder.

First witness was a young Italian, formerly a corporal major in Tunisia, attached to the 28th Italian Service Company at Fort Lawton for six months. He related that he and two Italian companions were halted on a road near their barracks by four Negro soldiers, one or more of whom cursed the Italians.

During the encounter, he said, one of the Negroes drew a knife. "I hit him on the right side of the jaw, and he fell to the ground," he related. "Then I ran toward my barracks."

The witness, whose name was withheld, testified that 20 minutes later his barracks was stoned, after which Negro soldiers swarmed about the building, smashing an axe through the door in a vain attempt to get it.

Pvt. Roy Daymond, of Houston, Tex., testified he was one of the four soldiers involved in the Italian's testimony. He said Pvt. Willie Montgomery was the man who was knocked down but denied Montgomery had a knife.

"Montgomery cussed the three Italians and told them to hush up that noise," he related. "They were talking in their language. Montgomery ran over to them. He got hit and knocked down. . . .

"We three threw some rocks at the Italians and then carried Montgomery over to our barracks. Later someone blew a formation whistle and the men fell out of the barracks."

There was no testimony to the effect that the Negroes attacked the Italians in formation. From Daymond's testimony it appeared that they straggled down to the Italian area. Daymond accused one man of striking an Italian with a stick. He named another whom he said was armed with a knife, and a third whom he said had a large stick in his hand.

28 SOLDIERS CONVICTED IN COAST RIOT

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Army Court Acquits 13 In Attack On Italian War Prisoners

(Special To The Defender)

FORT LAWTON, Wash.—An army court martial returned a verdict of guilty this week against 28 of 41 Negro soldiers involved in the riot against Italian war prisoners at Fort Lawton on Aug. 14.

Only 13 of the soldiers in the army's largest court martial of this war were acquitted.

Charged with the murder of Pvt. Guglielmo Olivotto, the former Italian prisoner whose body was found hanging from a guywire after the riot, those found guilty face a possible death sentence.

The alleged ringleaders of the brawl, which hospitalized 30 were said to be Corp. Luther Larkin, 23, of Helena, Ark.; Pvt. William G. Jones, 21, of Decatur, Ill., and Sgt. Arthur J. Hurks, 23, of Houston, Texas.

Among those acquitted were Tech. 5th Grade Nelson Alston, 24, of Chicago and Pfc. Arthur Williams, 19, of Cairo, Ill.

Third Degree Used

Earlier in the sensational trial the court had thrashed out evidence that the defendants were subjected to third degree punishment as a means of wringing signed confessions from them. The third degree charge was made by T-5 Willie Provost Sr., and Pvt. Samuel Snow, both defendants.

Provost accused Sgt. Ralph E. Young, attached to army intelligence of employing third degree tactics and was supported by 19-year-old Pvt Snow. Young, one of the army's investigators, "pulled off his coat and said he had a good mind to sock me if I didn't tell the truth," Snow declared, but his testimony was overruled by Lt. Col. Gerald W. O'Connor.

"There has been offered some testimony that certain threats were made to the accused on Sept. 5 that duress was practiced by certain persons and that acts frowned upon by the constitution, the civil courts and military courts as well were practiced on the accused, as a result of which he was forced to submit to questioning," said O'Conner. "The preponderence of the evidence establishes as a fact, and I so find, that no such duress was used and no such improper or illegal acts were committed."

Provost, who comes from Franklin, La., had identified F. J. Freeman, a civilian investigator, as the man who threw a rope at him with the threat that he would remember better when he was hanging.

Stands By Story

Although Freeman and other officials were called to the stand to refute the damaging testimony, Provost could not be shaken in his story. Freeman admitted under cross-examination by Major William Beeks, defense attorney, that he had served for 10 years as an investigator for the district attorney in Texas.

Provost also charged that Lieut. Col. Curtis L. Williams, assigned to the case from the inspector general's office in Washington, D. C., had tried to persuade him to add details to his testimony which were not true.

Lieutenant Colonel Williams, who questioned Provost 24 days after the alleged rope party on September 5, denied coercion had been used and said Prevost appeared willing to talk. Lieutenant Williams is a former district attorney from Arkansas.

Provost's confession, written in his own handwriting, was admitted in evidence by Lieutenant Colonel Herald W. O'Connor, the law member of the court. He ruled out testimony elicited from Provost on September 5, the day of the alleged rope threat because, he said, he was "not satisfied that he was warned on said day that any statement he might make could or would be used against him."

Provost admitted he had armed himself with a boar but there was no evidence that he had done anything but carry it with him. He identified others as participating in the riot but the court ordered their names deleted and ruled the confession could incriminate only Provost.

Blames Misunderstanding

All of the defendants are from two companies with highly meritorious records. About half of the accused were flown back from the Pacific theatre of operations and were wearing their service ribbons.

Lack of understanding over the status of the Italian service units was regarded as a factor in the case. While relations between the Negroes and Italians were generally reported to be good, there was resentment that former prisoners of war appeared to be given better treatment than the Negro soldiers.

Defendant Dismissed

The second defendant to be dismissed was Private First Class Milton Bratton, 31, of Excelsior Springs, Mo.

Olivotto jumped from his barracks into a group of Negro soldiers. Lieutenant Colonel Leon Jaworski, trial judge advocate, said he was not satisfied that he was able to identify Bratton at the scene of the witness next day. He was not able to identify the men, did not know whether they were Negro or white, he said, because he was under a log several hundred feet away.